

Ninth Edition

THE HIDDEN PLACES OF

HAMPSHIRE

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Published by:
Travel Publishing Ltd
Airport Business Centre, 10 Thornbury Road,
Estover, Plymouth PL6 7PP

ISBN13 9781907462160

© Travel Publishing Ltd

First Published: 1990 Second Edition: 1994

Third Edition: 1997 Fourth Edition: 1999

Fifth Edition: 2001 Sixth Edition: 2003

Seventh Edition: 2005 Eighth Edition: 2009

Ninth Edition: 2011

Please Note:

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Editors: Hilary Weston and Jackie Staddon

Cover Photo: Lymington Quay
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Text Photos: See page 72

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THE HIDDEN PLACES OF

HAMPSHIRE

Edited By
Hilary Weston and Jackie Staddon

FOREWORD

This is the 9th edition of the *Hidden Places of Hampshire* but the first time we have published a guide to the Isle of Wight as a separate edition. This title is also published as an e-book which reflects the significant growth in the demand for travel information in digital form.

The *free-to-download* digital edition is reproduced in full colour and reflects many of the changes made to the printed version with an attractive new cover and redesigned page layouts. The changes will significantly improve the usefulness, accessibility and appeal of the guide. As an e-book of course readers are able to quickly browse the guide on a page-by-page basis, search for, and locate places of interest using the index and find out more information on our advertisers by clicking on their website or email address. In addition, any part of the guide can be printed off for readers who want information on specific places.

Editorially, the guide continues Travel Publishing's commitment to exploring the more interesting, unusual or unique places of interest in Hampshire's countryside, coastline, cities, towns and villages. And there is certainly plenty to explore: the county's coastline offers the visitor a wonderful combination of maritime and naval tradition; to the north can be found the softly rolling wooded hills of the North Downs; to the west lies the New Forest, a National Park which is the largest wild area of lowland in Britain and a haven to wildlife.

The Hidden Places Hampshire contains a wealth of information on the history, culture and the many interesting places to be found in the county. But it also promotes the more secluded and little known visitor attractions and advertises places to stay, eat and drink many of which are easy to miss unless you know exactly where you are going. These are cross-referenced to more detailed information contained in a separate, easy-to-use section to the rear of the book. This section is also available as a free printed supplement.

We include hotels, bed & breakfasts, restaurants, pubs, bars, teashops and cafes as well as historic houses, museums, gardens and many other attractions throughout the county - all of which are comprehensively indexed. Many places are accompanied by an attractive photograph and are easily located by using the map at the beginning of the book. We do not award merit marks or rankings but concentrate on describing the more interesting, unusual or unique features of each place with the aim of making the reader's stay in the local area an enjoyable and stimulating experience.

Whether you are travelling around Hampshire on business or for pleasure we do hope that you enjoy reading and using this book. We are always interested in what readers think of places covered (or not covered) in our guides so please do not hesitate to use the reader reaction form provided to give us your considered comments. We also welcome any general comments which will help us improve the guides themselves. Finally, if you are planning to visit any other corner of the British Isles we would like to refer you to the list of other *Hidden Places* titles to be found to the rear of the book and to the Travel Publishing website (see below).

Travel Publishing

Did you know that you can also search our website for details of thousands of places to see, stay, eat or drink throughout Britain and Ireland? Our site has become increasingly popular and now receives hundreds of thousands of visits. Try it!

website: www.findsomewhere.co.uk

CONTENTS

- 4 Foreword

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA:

- 6 Hampshire Introduction
- 6 Regional Map
- 8 Hampshire Towns and Villages

ADVERTISEMENTS:

- 47 Hampshire Advertisements

INDEXES AND LISTS:

- 71 List of Tourist Information Centres
- 72 Image Copyright Holders
- 73 Order Forms
- 74 Index of Towns, Villages and Places of Interest

HAMPSHIRE

As the crow flies, the northeastern corner of Hampshire is little more than 30 miles from central London. So it's not surprising that this corner of the county is quite heavily populated, dotted with prosperous, sprawling towns such as Farnborough, Farnham and Basingstoke, plus the army enclave of Aldershot. What *is* surprising is that once you turn off the busy main roads, you can find yourself driving along narrow country lanes with very little traffic.

To the south of this area are the North Downs. Honouring the perverse tradition of English place-names, the Downs are actually uplands, softly rolling, wooded hills in whose folds lie scores of picturesque villages and

small towns. Further south is the historic city of Winchester with its glorious cathedral, and further south still, the heavily populated coastal area extending from Havant through Portsmouth with its magnificent maritime heritage, to Southampton, which boasts one of the finest natural harbours in the world.

Oddly, there are comparatively few grand houses in Hampshire although The Vyne near Basingstoke, and the Duke of Wellington's home, Stratfield Saye House, are both very imposing. Two smaller dwellings, however, attract many thousands of visitors to this corner of the county: Jane Austen's House at Chawton, near Alton, and a few miles to the



south, in the village of Selborne, The Wakes, home of the celebrated naturalist Gilbert White. Lovers of steam railways can combine a visit to these two houses with a ride on the Watercress Line, which runs between Alton and Alresford.

Created a National Park in 2005, the New Forest has been a Royal Forest for more than

900 years. It acquired its name after William the Conqueror proclaimed it as his hunting ground and began a programme of planting thousands of trees. The area is famous for its wildlife, in particular the ponies, and now that it has the status of a National Park, its 222 square miles will be protected from “inappropriate development” in the future.

Accommodation

- 3 Rosedale Bed & Breakfast, Lyndhurst *pg 9, 56*
- 8 The Langley Tavern, Langley, Southampton *pg 13, 61*
- 17 Beachcomber Cafe, Barton-on-Sea *pg 17, 68*
- 19 The Lamb Inn, Ringwood *pg 18, 69*
- 20 The Red Shoot Inn & Brewery, Linwood, Ringwood *pg 18, 70*
- 23 The Augustus John, Fordingbridge *pg 19, 72*
- 26 Alderholt Mill, Alderholt, Fordingbridge *pg 20, 74*
- 35 The Shoe Inn, Plaitford, Romsey *pg 39, 79*

Food & Drink

- 1 The Lyndhurst Tea House, Lyndhurst *pg 9, 55*
- 4 The Greenwood Tree, Lyndhurst *pg 9, 57*
- 5 The Compass Inn, Winsor, Cadnam *pg 10, 58*
- 6 The Forest Inn, Ashurst *pg 11, 59*
- 8 The Langley Tavern, Langley, Southampton *pg 13, 61*
- 9 Something's Brewing At The Watersplash, Brockenhurst *pg 14, 60*
- 10 Fishermans Rest, Lymington *pg 14, 62*
- 11 The Chequers Inn, Lymington *pg 14, 63*
- 12 The Tollhouse Inn, Lymington *pg 15, 64*
- 13 The Wheel Inn, Pennington, Lymington *pg 15, 65*
- 14 The Sportsmans Arms, Pennington, Lymington *pg 15, 66*
- 15 Everton Nurseries Garden Centre & Camellias Restaurant, Everton, Lymington *pg 16, 67*
- 16 Tessa's Restaurant, New Milton *pg 16, 68*
- 17 Beachcomber Cafe, Barton-on-Sea *pg 17, 68*
- 18 The Fish Inn, Ringwood *pg 18, 69*
- 19 The Lamb Inn, Ringwood *pg 18, 69*
- 20 The Red Shoot Inn & Brewery, Linwood, Ringwood *pg 18, 70*
- 22 Rose & Thistle, Rockbourne, Fordingbridge *pg 19, 71*
- 23 The Augustus John, Fordingbridge *pg 19, 72*
- 24 Bridges - Coffee & Dining, Fordingbridge *pg 19, 73*

Food & Drink

- 25 Churchill Arms, Alderholt, Fordingbridge *pg 20, 72*
- 27 The Station House At Holmsley, Burley, Ringwood *pg 21, 75*
- 28 Tuck's Cafe, Shirley, Southampton *pg 22, 74*
- 32 The Clatford Arms, Goodworth Clatford, Andover *pg 32, 78*
- 33 The Red House, Whitchurch *pg 34, 78*
- 34 Number Ate The Cafe, Romsey *pg 39, 79*
- 35 The Shoe Inn, Plaitford, Romsey *pg 39, 79*
- 36 The Fox, Newfound, Basingstoke *pg 41, 80*
- 38 Barley Mow, Oakley *pg 45, 81*
- 41 Tiffin Traditional Tearooms, Alresford *pg 49, 83*
- 42 Cloisters Cafe & Wine Bar, Petersfield *pg 50, 83*

Shopping

- 9 Something's Brewing At The Watersplash, Brockenhurst *pg 14, 60*
- 15 Everton Nurseries Garden Centre & Camellias Restaurant, Everton, Lymington *pg 16, 67*
- 20 The Red Shoot Inn & Brewery, Linwood, Ringwood *pg 18, 70*

Places of Interest

- 7 Beaulieu National Motor Museum, Beaulieu, Brockenhurst *pg 12, 60*
- 21 Rockbourne Roman Villa, Rockbourne, Fordingbridge *pg 19, 70*
- 29 Bursledon Windmill, Bursledon, Southampton *pg 25, 76*
- 30 Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, Portsmouth *pg 26, 77*
- 31 Explosion! Museum of Naval Firepower, Gosport *pg 30, 76*
- 37 Basing House, Basing, Basingstoke *pg 42, 81*
- 39 Aldershot Military Museum, Aldershot *pg 46, 82*
- 40 Gilbert White's House and the Oates Museum, Selborne *pg 48, 82*

NEW FOREST

Designated a National Park in 2004, the New Forest, as is the way with many English place-names, is neither New nor a Forest, although much of it is attractively wooded. Some historians believe that 'Forest' is a corruption of an ancient British word, *gores* or *gorest*, meaning waste or open ground. 'Gorse' comes from the same root word. The term 'New Forest' came into use after William the Conqueror proclaimed the area a royal hunting ground, seized some 15,000 acres that Saxon farmers had laboriously reclaimed from the heathland, and began a programme of planting thousands of trees. To preserve wildlife for his sport, (the deer especially), William adopted all the rigorous venery laws of his Saxon royal predecessors and added some harsh measures of his own. Anyone who killed a deer would himself be killed. If someone shot at a beast and missed, his hands were cut off. And, perhaps most ruthless of all, anyone who disturbed a deer during the breeding season had his eyes put out.

There are still plenty of wild deer roaming the 145 square miles of the Forest Park, confined within its boundaries by cattle grids,

(known to Americans as Texas Gates). You are much more likely though to see the famous New Forest ponies, free-wandering creatures, which nevertheless are all privately owned. They are also something of a hazard for drivers so do take care, especially at night.

The largest wild area in lowland Britain, the forest is ideal walking country with vast tracts virtually unpopulated but criss-crossed by a cat's cradle of footpaths and bridleways. The Forestry Commission has also established a network of waymarked cycle routes, which make the most of the scenic attractions and are also designed to help protect the special nature of the forest. A map detailing the cycle network is available, along with a vast amount of other information about the area, from the New Forest Visitor Centre in Lyndhurst. Visitors can watch an audio visual show, see life-sized models of forest characters, make use of its Resource Centre and Library, and explore a gift shop specialising in locally made forest crafts. The only town of any size within the New Forest, Lyndhurst is generally regarded as its 'capital', a good place then to begin a tour of the area.

The best way to explore the New Forest is on an open-top bus tour (runs every day in summer). Enjoy wonderful coast and forest scenery from 20 feet up, hop on and off where you want and even take your bike with you. The bus connects to the off-road cycle and walks network as well as many attractions and places of interest. An on-board commentary provides interesting information about the sites you pass along the way.



Fallow Deer, New Forest

LYNDHURST

The most striking building in this compact little town is the **Church of St Michael**, rebuilt in mid-Victorian times in what John Betjeman described as 'the most fanciful, fantastic Gothic style that I ever have seen'. The rebuilding coincided with the heyday of the Pre-Raphaelite movement so the church contains some fine stained glass by Burne-Jones, produced by the firm of William



Queen's House, Lyndhurst

lodged here and the last monarch to stay, George III, graciously allowed loyal villagers to watch through the window as he ate dinner. Queen's House is now the headquarters of the Forestry Commission and is also home to the **Verderer's Court**, an institution dating back to Norman times, which still deals with matters concerning the forest's ancient commoning rights. The verderers (forest officials) still sit in public ten times a year and work closely with the Commission in managing the forest. They also appoint agisters, or stockmen, who are responsible for the

day-to-day supervision of about 3,000 ponies and cattle roaming the forest.

Morris, as well as a splendidly lush painting by Lord Leighton of *The Wise and Foolish Virgins*.

In St Michael's churchyard is the **Grave of Alice Liddell** who, as a young girl, was the inspiration for Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*. As Mrs Reginald Hargreaves, Alice lived all her married life in Lyndhurst and was very active in local affairs.

Next to the church is the **Queen's House**, which rather confusingly is re-named the King's House whenever the reigning sovereign is male. Originally built as a royal hunting lodge, its medieval and Tudor elements are still visible. Many kings and queens have

At the **New Forest Centre and Museum**, in the heart of the town, visitors can learn about the history and the wide variety of plants and animal life that the forest supports. Interactive displays, activities and the new Family Fun Tree - a huge oak tree at the centre of things - add to the appeal for younger visitors. There's also an exhibit exploring the mysterious death in 1100 of William Rufus, son of William the Conqueror, who was killed by an arrow whilst out hunting. It was officially described as an accident but some believe that it was murder.

1 THE LYNDHURST TEA HOUSE

Lyndhurst

A delightful family run tea house with outstanding food and hospitality serving all day breakfasts, light lunches and hearty meals to visitors from far and wide.

See entry on page 55



3 ROSEDALE BED & BREAKFAST

Lyndhurst

A real home from home offering a warm welcome, comfortable rooms, hearty breakfasts and evening meals prepared on request.

See entry on page 56



2 LITTLE HAYES

Lyndhurst

A friendly and comfortable place to enjoy a relaxing stay whilst exploring the many delights of The New Forest, with a hearty breakfast setting you up for the day ahead.

See entry on page 56



4 THE GREENWOOD TREE

Lyndhurst

A popular cafe, restaurant and tea rooms serving an extensive range of tasty food and drink including cakes baked on the premises, delicious savoury and sweet waffles and hearty main meals.

See entry on page 57



This little town is noted for its variety of small shops where you can find 'anything from fresh food to Ferraris!' Many are located in the High Street, an attractive thoroughfare of mostly Edwardian buildings, which gently slopes down the hill to **Bolton's Bench**, a tree-crowned knoll where grazing ponies can usually be found. The spot enjoys excellent views over Lyndhurst and the surrounding forest. At the other end of the town, **Swan Green**, surrounded by picturesque thatched cottages, provides a much-photographed setting where cricket matches are held in summer.



Rufus Stone, Minstead

AROUND LYNDHURST

MINSTEAD

2 miles NW of Lyndhurst off the A337

The village of Minstead offers two interesting attractions, one of which is the unusual seating arrangement in the **Church of All Saints**. During the 18th century, the gentry and squirearchy of Minstead seem to have regarded church attendance as a necessary duty, which, nevertheless, should be made as agreeable as possible. Three of the village's most affluent residents paid to have the church fabric altered so that they could each have their own entrance door leading to a private 'parlour', complete with open fireplace and comfortable chairs. The squire of Minstead even installed a sofa on which he

could doze during the sermon (delivered from an unusual 3-decker pulpit). It's easy to understand his concern since these sermons were normally expected to last for at least an hour; star preachers seem to have thought they were short-changing their flock if they didn't prate for at least twice that long. It was around this time that churches began introducing benches for the congregation.

Admirers of the creator of Sherlock Holmes, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, will want to pay their respects at his grave in the churchyard here. He loved the New Forest and a few years before he died he bought a house at Bignell Wood near Minstead. The lettering at the base of the cross describes Sir Arthur as a 'patriot, physician and man of letters'. Minstead's other main attraction is **Furzey Gardens**, eight acres of delightful, informal woodland gardens designed by Hew Dalrymple in the 1920s and enjoying extensive views over the New Forest towards the Isle of Wight. Beautiful banks of azaleas and rhododendrons, heathers and ferns surround an attractive water garden, and amongst the notable species growing here are incandescent Chilean Fire Trees and the strange 'Bottle Brush Tree'. To the northwest of Minstead stands the **Rufus Stone**, said to mark the spot where King William II (William Rufus) was killed by an arrow while out hunting. His body was carried on the cart of Purkis, a charcoal burner, to Winchester, where William's brother Henry, who had also been hunting elsewhere in the

5 THE COMPASS INN

Cadnam

A picturesque inn offering homecooked food, 5 real ales and a delightful beer garden.

See entry on page 58



Forest and had soon got wind of the accident, had already arrived to proclaim himself King. William had not been a popular monarch and his funeral in the Cathedral at Winchester was conducted with little ceremony and even less mourning. The fatal arrow was fired by a Norman knight, Sir Walter Tyrrel, who was aiming at a deer that had broken cover. He missed the deer and the arrow bounced off a tree and hit William. Tyrrel escaped across the Avon at a point that has become known as Tyrrel's Ford.

ASHURST

3 miles NE of Lyndhurst on the A35

Just to the east of Ashurst, in 25 acres of ancient woodland, is the **New Forest Wildlife Park**, home to the largest gathering in Europe of multi-specied otters, owls and other indigenous wildlife. Conservation is the key word here. The park has an ongoing breeding programme for otters and barn owls, both of which are endangered species. Visitors can meander along woodland trails



New Forest Wildlife Park, Ashurst

6 FOREST INN

Ashurst

A popular country local known for its quality food, well kept ales and unbeatable hospitality.

See entry on page 59



and encounter the otters and owls in their enclosures along with other native mammals such as deer, wild boar, foxes and badgers, and a highly endangered Scottish wild cat. The new Eurasian wolf enclosure is a popular attraction.

A popular family attraction, **Longdown Activity Farm** offers hands-on activities every day, including small animal handling and bottle-feeding calves and kids. There's an outdoor play and picnic area; indoor trampolines; tearoom and gift shop.

ELING

5 miles NE of Lyndhurst off the A35

Standing at the head of Southampton Water, Eling is notable for its working **Tide Mill**, the only one left in Britain. Naturally, its operation depends on the tides so if you want to see the mill working, call 023 8086 9575. The mill is on the old quay, close to the Totton & Eling Heritage Centre (free); there are pleasant walks from here along the reed-lined river.

OWER

6 miles NW of Lyndhurst on the A3090

This hamlet on the edge of the New Forest is home to **Paultons Park**, 140 acres of landscaped parkland with more than 40 attractions that range from thrilling rides to bird gardens and museums. Opened in April 2011 in the grounds of Paultons Park, **Peppa Pig World** is a world first and UK exclusive. With seven new rides, an indoor play area, gift shop and cafe/restaurant.

HYTHE

8 miles E of Lyndhurst off the A326

A small town with a pleasant pedestrianised Georgian high street, Hythe is one of the very best places to watch the comings and goings of the big ships on Southampton Water. No visit here is complete without taking a ride along the pier on the quaint little electric

train, the oldest electric pier train in the world. From the end of the pier, a ferry plies the short route across to Southampton. Hythe is the birthplace of the Hovercraft - its inventor Sir Christopher Cockerell lived in the town. In the 1930s Hythe was the home of the British Powerboat Company and of TE Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia) while he was testing the RAF 200 series powerboats.

BEAULIEU

7 miles SE of Lyndhurst on the B3056

The ruins of a 13th century Cistercian Abbey, a stately home that grew up around the abbey's imposing gatehouse, and the **National Motor Museum** sited in its grounds are three good reasons why the village of Beaulieu has become one of the county's major visitor attractions. When Lord Montagu of Beaulieu first opened his family home to the public in the 1950s, he organised a display of a few vintage motor vehicles in homage to his father who had been a pioneer of motoring in Britain. That modest clutch of cars has now expanded to include some 250 of the oldest, newest, slowest and fastest motorcars and bikes in British motoring history, plus some rare oddities in the Weir Cars display. The motoring theme is continued in fun rides such as Go Karts and Wheels, a space-age pod ride through 100 years of motoring. The James Bond Experience displays forms of transport used in the renowned films, while the World of Top Gear exhibits many of the extraordinary battered and modified cars used in the show's challenges

7 BEAULIEU NATIONAL MOTOR MUSEUM

Beaulieu

The motor museum contains a superb collection of vehicles covering all aspects of motoring. The house is also open and together make a great day out for all the family.

See entry on page 60



Buckler's Hard Cottages

Montagu family treasures are on display in **Palace House**, formerly the gatehouse of the Abbey, and visitors can meet characters from Victorian days who will talk about their lives in service.

It was an ancestor of Lord Montagu, the 2nd Duke of Montagu, who created the picturesque riverside village of **Buckler's Hard** in the early 1700s. It was designed as an inland port to receive and refine sugar from the duke's West Indian estates and His Grace planned his model village on a grand scale: the streets, for example, were to be 80feet wide. Unfortunately, the enterprise failed and only a single street was built. That 18th century street remains intact and unspoiled, and one of its buildings has been converted into a **Maritime Museum** reflecting the subsequent history of the village when it became a ship-building centre. More than 50 naval ships were built at Buckler's Hard, amongst them one of Nelson's favourite ships, the *Agamemnon*. Displays in the newly refurbished museum include models of ships, among them *Victory*, *Agamemnon* and the yacht *Bluebottle*, which Prince Philip raced with success. A special display recounts the exploits of Sir Francis Chichester, who sailed round the world in *Gypsy Moth* from his home-port of Bucklers Hard.

A lovely riverside walk passes through **Bailey's Hard**, a former brickworks where the first naval vessel built on the river was completed in 1698. Henry Adams, the most distinguished of a family of shipbuilders, lived in the village in what is now the Master

Builders Hotel. In the summer, half-hour cruises on *Swiftsure* depart from the pier at Buckler's Hard.

EXBURY

10 miles SE of Lyndhurst off the B3054

Created by Lionel de Rothschild in the 1920s and still run by members of the family, **Exbury Gardens** fully justify the reaction of one visitor, who described them as 'Heaven with the gates open'. One hundred and fifty gardeners and workmen took 10 years to create the gardens, and Rothschild sent expeditions to the Himalayas to find the seeds he wanted. He himself bred hundreds of varieties of plants and the displays of rhododendrons, camellias and azaleas that he planted are renowned the world over. The 200-acre grounds are a delight to visit in spring, summer or autumn, with May perhaps the best time of all. A leisurely way of seeing the gardens is by taking a trip on the narrow-gauge Steam Railway. Many varieties of the Exbury specialities are on sale in the plant centre, where there's also a gift shop, tea room and restaurant - there is free entry to all of these.

Exbury's **Church of St Catherine** is best known for its moving, lifelike bronze memorial to two brothers who were killed in action in World War I. The work was commissioned by the brothers' parents and executed by Cecil Thomas, a gifted young sculptor who was a friend of the brothers. The area around Exbury and Lepe is featured in Nevil Shute's sad story *Requiem for a Wren*, which describes the preparations made in the New Forest for the D-Day landings. Shute himself was an aero-engineer as well as a writer, and for a time worked here on a top-secret pilotless plane.

FAWLEY

12 miles SE of Lyndhurst on the A326

Oil is king here, and the terminals and refineries of what is probably the largest oil plant in Europe create a science fiction

landscape; standing bravely apart is the village church, a link with earlier days, looking out over Southampton Water. Fawley is where some islanders from Tristan da Cunha settled after fleeing a volcano that threatened their island in 1961; a model of one of the boats they used for their escape can be seen in the chapel. Also of note in Fawley is **Cadland House**, whose 8-acre garden overlooking the Solent was designed for the banker Robert Drummond by Capability Brown. It houses the national collection of leptospermums and also features a splendid kitchen garden and a modern walled garden (the house and gardens are open to groups only with written appointment). Beyond the refineries a road leads off the B3053 Calshot road to **Ashlett Creek** and another world, the natural, unrefined world of creeks, mud flats and bird-haunted marshland.

CALSHOT

14 miles SE of Lyndhurst on the B3053

The RAF was based in both World Wars at



Ashlett Creek

8 THE LANGLEY TAVERN

Langley

Delicious cuisine, real ales, plus quality wines to complement your meal.

See entry on page 61





Calshot Castle

Calshot, where seaplanes were prepared and tested for the Schneider Trophy races. The hangars once used by the RAF are now the Calshot Activity Centre, whose many activities include an artificial ski slope. At the very end of a shingle spit stands one of Henry VIII's coastal defence castles. This is **Calshot Castle**, which is now restored as a pre-World War I garrison. Visitors can admire the view from the roof of the keep, walk round the barrack room that looks as it did before World War I and see the exhibition of the Schneider air races. A little way to the west is **Lepe**, one of the major embarkation points for the 1944 D-Day invasion. The area at the top of the cliffs at Lepe is now a country park, and there's safe swimming off the beach.

BROCKENHURST

3 miles S of Lyndhurst on the A337

Brockenhurst is a large village in a lovely setting in the heart of the New Forest. Forest ponies are frequent visitors to the main

street and the village green (they naturally have right of way!) The **Church of St Nicholas** has a vast graveyard with a yew tree that is probably the oldest tree in the whole region. In the graveyard lie many soldiers, many of them from New Zealand, who had died of their injuries in a nearby military hospital. But the best-known grave is that of Harry Mills, known as 'Brusher' Mills, who brushed the New Forest cricket pitch and followed the occupation of snake-catcher. His tombstone states that his 'pursuit and the primitive way in which he lived caused him to be an object of interest to many'.

LYMINGTON

An ancient seaport and market town, Lymington was once of greater importance than Portsmouth. It was also once a major manufacturer of salt, with hundreds of salt-pans stretching between the quay and the tip of the promontory at Hurst Castle. There are some great walks along the tidal salt marshes, which are designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The town itself is very appealing with narrow streets lined with

10 FISHERMANS REST

Lymington

A friendly traditional pub and restaurant that welcomes the many visitors to Lymington and its marinas and serves a great range of freshly prepared meals and cask conditioned ales.

See entry on page 62



9 SOMETHING'S BREWING AT THE WATERSPLASH

Brockenhurst

A delightful family run coffee shop situated in the popular village of Brockenhurst serving delicious homemade cakes, traditional cream teas and light lunches.

See entry on page 60



11 CHEQUERS INN

Lymington

Whether you're after history, unbeatable food, a relaxed atmosphere or well kept ales, The Chequers will not disappoint and is well worth a visit.

See entry on page 63



period cottages and houses, and a high street leading down to the busy quay and marina where fresh fish is sold.

St Barbe Museum, in New Street, tells the story of the area between the New Forest and the Solent, with special reference to the salt industry, boatbuilding, smuggling and the area at war. There is also a changing exhibition of the work of artists both local and world-renowned - the gallery has in the past hosted works by artists as diverse as David Hockney and Goya. The broad High Street leading up from the quay is a hive of activity on Saturday, when the market established in the 13th century is held. A 4-mile railway linking Brockenhurst with Lymington was opened in 1858 as a rival to the already established route to the Isle of Wight via Portsmouth. The line was extended

Moorings at Lymington



to the harbour in 1884; it survived the Beeching axe and was electrified in 1967. The Isle of Wight ferry runs from Walhampton, just outside Lymington, where a notable building is the Neale Obelisk, a memorial to Admiral Neale erected in 1840.

12 THE TOLLHOUSE INN

Lymington

A warm and welcoming country pub that is full of character, serving real ales and offering fine dining at pub prices in a relaxed atmosphere with a fantastic programme of live entertainment.

See entry on page 64



13 THE WHEEL INN

Pennington, nr Lymington

A great pub serving authentic Thai food to eat in or take away and offering excellent entertainment including a monthly comedy night and a weekly acoustic singaround.

See entry on page 65



14 THE SPORTSMANS ARMS

Pennington, nr Lymington

Open all day for good food, drinks and great conversation. Well worth a visit!

See entry on page 66



AROUND LYMINGTON

BOLDRE

2 miles N of Lymington, on the A337

'The village is here, there, and everywhere' wrote Arthur Mee in the 1930s, struggling to give some literary shape to an agglomeration of hamlets - Portmore, Pilley and Sandy Down, which together make up the parish of Boldre. Mee approved of the medieval church, with its squat square tower, standing isolated on a hill-top, and also paid due tribute to its 18th century rector, the Revd William Gilpin, whose books describing travels around Britain achieved cult status during his lifetime and even received a mention in Jane Austen's novel, *Sense and Sensibility*. Summing up his view of the village, Mee declared that 'The quaint simplicity of Boldre is altogether charming'. Some 70 years later, there's little reason to dispute his description.

In School Lane, on a slope overlooking the Lymington valley, **Spinners** is a charming, informal woodland garden with a national collection of trilliums.

Seafront, Milford-on-Sea



the Isle of Wight coast. It can only be reached by a 1.5 mile walk along the shingle beach or, in the summer months, by ferries operating from Keyhaven Quay, one mile east of Milford-on-Sea. The excursion makes a pleasant day or half-day trip since in addition to the castle itself there's safe bathing north of the lighthouse, good fishing off the southern tip of the spit, and spectacular views of the Needles as well as of huge ships making their way up the Solent.

To the north of Milford, **Braxton Gardens** are set around the red-

brick barns of a Victorian farmyard. There are actually three individual gardens here: the Courtyard Garden with its pool and fountain; the Walled Herb Garden which features a knot garden planted with germander and lavender; and the Rose Garden with more than 100 varieties of roses.

MILFORD-ON-SEA

3 miles SW of Lymington on the B3058

This sizeable coastal village is notable for its fine, remarkably well-preserved 13th century **Church of All Saints**; its grand views across Christchurch Bay to the Needles; its excellent Shorefield Country Park and the odd-looking construction called **Hurst Castle**. At the centre of Hurst Castle is a squat fort built by Henry VIII to guard the Solent entrance against incursions by the French. Its tower is flanked by two long, low wings added in the 1860s for gun emplacements, the square openings making them look rather like shopping arcades. The castle was used as a garrison right up until World War II but is now in the care of English Heritage. An on-site exhibition explains its history, audio-visual tours of the castle are available and there is a small café in the grounds.

Hurst Castle stands at the tip of a long gravel spit, which stretches out across the Solent to within three quarters of a mile of

NEW MILTON

5 miles W of Lymington on the A337

If you were allowed to see only one visitor attraction in New Milton, you would have a difficult choice. One option is the town's splendid **Water Tower** of 1900. Late-Victorian providers of water services seem to have enjoyed pretending that their storage towers and sewage treatment plants were really castles of the Middle Ages. They built these mock-medieval structures all around the country, but the one at New Milton is particularly striking. Three storeys high, with a castellated parapet, the octagonal building has tall, narrow windows.

If you are more interested in the arts,

15 EVERTON NURSERIES GARDEN CENTRE & CAMELLIAS RESTAURANT

Gussage

Fantastic garden centre and restaurant offering an extensive range of garden essentials and home cooked food.

See entry on page 67



16 TESSA'S RESTAURANT

New Milton

A delightful restaurant with warm and welcoming hosts and a pretty patio area for dining alfresco. All dishes are freshly prepared on the premises and there is an excellent menu and specials board.

See entry on page 68



you'll be pleased to hear about **Forest Arts** in New Milton. Music of all kinds is on offer, from jazz, salsa and blues, to traditional and classical matinée concerts. Performances are conveniently timed so that you can arrive after picking up the kids from school. Other daytime events include slide talks by experts on a wide range of topics. Forest Arts also hosts some of the best contemporary dance companies around, ensembles who have performed at The Place in London and indeed all over the world. And if you enjoy the buzz and excitement of seeing new, vibrant theatre, the type of theatre that is on offer at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival for example, Forest Arts provides that as well.

Devotees of vintage motorcycles will make for a very different attraction. The Sammy Miller Museum, to the west of New Milton, is widely regarded as one of the best motorcycle museums in the world. Sammy Miller is a legend in his own lifetime, still winning competitions almost half a century after his first racing victory. More than 350 rare and exotic motorcycles are on display here. Also within the museum complex are a craft shop, tearooms and a children's play area. The museum has recently been extended to accommodate the growing collection.

SWAY

3 miles NW of Lymington off the A337

This rural village and the surrounding countryside were the setting for much of Captain Marryatt's *Children of the New Forest*, an exciting tale set in the time of the Civil War and written a year before Marryatt died in 1848.

In Station Road, **Artsway** is a visual arts

Peterson's Tower, Sway



centre that was originally a coach house; the site contains a garden and a gallery. South of the village is a famous 220 feet folly called **Peterson's Tower**. This curiosity was built by a retired judge, Andrew Peterson, in honour of his late wife and as proof of the efficacy of concrete. The tower was originally topped by a light that could be seen for many miles, but it was removed on the orders of Trinity House as a potential source of confusion to shipping. The judge's ashes were buried at the base of his folly but were later moved to be next to his wife in the churchyard at Sway.

RINGWOOD

Wednesday morning is a good time to visit Ringwood since that is when its market square is filled with a notable variety of colourful stalls. The town has expanded greatly in recent years but its centre still boasts a large number of elegant Georgian houses, both large and small. **Ringwood Meeting House**, built in 1727 and now a museum, is an outstanding example of an early Nonconformist chapel, complete with the original, rather austere, fittings. **Monmouth House** is of about the same period

17 BEACHCOMBER CAFE

Barton-on-Sea

Fantastic cafe offering spectacular views, attentive staff, unbeatable food and a relaxed atmosphere.

See entry on page 68



and stands on the site of an earlier house in which the luckless Duke of Monmouth was confined after his unsuccessful uprising against James II. The duke had been discovered hiding in a ditch just outside the town and, despite his abject pleas to the king to spare his life, he was beheaded at Tower Hill a few days later.

Ringwood developed around a crossing point of the River Avon. Visitors can learn all about the town's history at the **Ringwood Town & Country Experience Museum** where the exhibits are specially designed to let you feel that you are there in the past - not just viewing it as an academic exercise. The extremely varied displays include a journey through time that takes you to the earliest settlements, Roman occupation, smugglers, Victorian life and the coming of the railway. Stroll into reconstructed olde shops and stand on a replica of an historic railway platform. A visit can be pleasantly concluded by taking refreshment in the 1940s-style tearoom.

The town still boasts its own brewery: at the **Ringwood Brewery Store** you can purchase its highly regarded draught beers, with fascinating names such as Boondoggie, Old Thumper and Fortyniner, available in 4.5



Moors Valley Railway, Ringwood

jugs up to 72-pint firkins. On Sunday afternoons during the summer (Saturday in winter), tours of the brewhouse are available during which visitors can taste the different malted barleys, see the fermentations bubbling and sample the beers.

A mile or so south-east of Ringwood, in the hamlet of Crow, the **Liberty's Owl, Raptor & Reptile Centre** is named after its impressive American Bald Eagle. 'Liberty' has plenty of companions - the Centre is home to one of the largest collections of owls in Europe. There are flying displays, both inside and out, daily lectures to entertain visitors of all ages, a café and shop. This is also rescue centre, and in the hospital units Bruce Berry, founder of the sanctuary, and his dedicated staff have prepared hundreds of birds for release back into the world. As well as the owls, eagles and vultures Liberty's is home to many reptiles, including a royal python, bearded dragon and green iguana. The Sanctuary is open daily from March to October and at weekends only during the winter.

Five miles west of the town stretch the great expanses of Ringwood Forest, which

18 THE FISH INN

Ringwood

Unbeatable inn offering a fantastic menu, well stocked bar, warm welcome and a relaxed atmosphere.



See entry on page 69

19 THE LAMB INN

Ringwood

Excellent hospitality, food and bed and breakfast accommodation conveniently situated within walking distance of the well established market town of Ringwood and open seven days a week all year round



See entry on page 69

20 THE RED SHOOT INN & BREWERY

Linwood, nr Ringwood

A true gem offering home brewed ales, fantastic freshly prepared food and a warm welcome.

See entry on page 70



includes the **Moors Valley Country Park** at Ashley Heath. One of the most popular attractions here is the **Moors Valley Railway**, a delightful narrow gauge steam railway with rails just 7¼ inches apart. The railway has 19 locomotives, all in different liveries. The signal box at Kingsmere, the main station, was purpose-built but all the equipment inside comes from old redundant signal boxes - the main signal lever frame for example came from the Becton Gas Works in East London. At Kingsmere Station, in addition to the ticket office and the engine and carriage sheds, there's also (a buffet and Model Railway Shop).

Within Moors Valley Country Park, Go Ape! is an absolute must for those with a sense of adventure. The experience includes a high-wire aerial assault course of extreme rope bridges, Tarzan swings and zip slides (age and height restrictions apply - call 0845 643 9215)

bottom of a valley. An attraction that brings in visitors by the thousand is **Rockbourne Roman Villa**, the largest of its kind in the region. The Villa was discovered in 1942 when oyster shells and tiles were found by a farmer as he was digging out a ferret. Excavations of the site, which is set in idyllic surroundings, have revealed superb mosaics, part of the amazing underfloor heating system and the outline of the great villa's 40 rooms. Many of the hundreds of objects unearthed are on display in the site's museum and souvenirs are on sale in the well-stocked museum shop.

A mile or so beyond the Roman Villa, looking out on to the downs, is the little village of **Whitsbury**, a major centre for the breeding and training of racehorses.

FORDINGBRIDGE

7 miles N of Ringwood, on the A338

AROUND RINGWOOD

ROCKBOURNE

3 miles NW of Fordingbridge off the B3078

One of the prettiest villages in the region, Rockbourne lies by a gentle stream at the

The painter Augustus John (1878-1961) loved Fordingbridge, a pleasant riverside town with a graceful medieval 7-arched bridge spanning the River Avon. He spent much of the last 30 years of his life at Fryern Court, a rather austere Georgian house just north of the town (not open to the public, but visible from the road). Scandalous stories of the Bohemian life-style he indulged in there

21 ROCKBOURNE ROMAN VILLA

Rockbourne

Discovered in 1942, the villa is an important site with superb mosaics and part of an underfloor heating system.



See entry on page 70

23 THE AUGUSTUS JOHN

Fordingbridge

Family run establishment comprising a bar, restaurant and four letting rooms.

See entry on page 72



22 ROSE & THISTLE

Rockbourne

A beautiful thatched pub situated in a picturesque village location serving delicious home cooked food alongside a fantastic selection of cask ales, ciders and fine wines from around the world.

See entry on page 71



24 BRIDGES - COFFEE & DINING

Fordingbridge

Fantastic dining establishment with a selection of traditional dishes, homemade cakes and hot and cold drinks including alcoholic tipples.

See entry on page 73



circulated around the town but didn't deter the townspeople from erecting a strikingly vigorous statue of him in a park near the bridge. John is also remembered with a special exhibit in the **Fordingbridge Museum**.

Branksome China Works is well worth a visit. Visitors can see how the firm, established in 1945, makes its fine porcelain tableware and famous animal studies.

On the edge of the town, there's a special treat for anyone who savours daft public notices. As a prime example of useless information, it would be hard to beat the trim little 18th century milepost that informs the traveller: 'Fordingbridge: 0'.

Two miles west of Fordingbridge off the B3078 - follow the signposts - is **Alderholt Mill** (see panel), a restored working water-powered corn mill standing on Ashford Water, a tributary of the Hampshire Avon. The site includes a tearoom for the sale of refreshments and baking from the mill's own flour.



Breamore House

BREAMORE

10 miles N of Fordingbridge on the A338

Breamore is a lovely and largely unspoilt 17th century village with a very interesting little church with Saxon windows and other artifacts. Most notable, in the south porch, is a Saxon rood, or crucifixion scene.

Breamore House, set above the village overlooking the Avon Valley, was built in 1583 and contains some fine paintings, including works of the 17th and 18th century Dutch School; a unique set of 14 Mexican ethnological paintings; superb period furniture in oak, walnut and mahogany; a very rare James I carpet and many other items of historical and family interest. The house has been the home of the Hulse family for well over 250 years, having been purchased in the early 18th century by Sir Edward Hulse, Physician in Ordinary at the Courts of Queen Anne, George I and George II. The house is often used as a location for films and TV programmes, including such productions as *Churchill at War* and *Children of the New Forest*. In the grounds of the house, the **Countryside Museum** is a reconstructed Tudor village with a wealth of rural implements and machinery, replicas of a farm worker's cottage, smithy, dairy, brewery, saddler's shop, cobbler's shop, general store, laundry and school. Amenities for visitors include a tearoom and a children's adventure play area close to the Great British Maze. Children also love seeing the estate's Flemish rabbits that are amongst the largest

25 CHURCHILL ARMS

Alderholt

A popular pub offering a fantastic selection of food, well kept ales, a relaxed atmosphere and a warm welcome from the White family.

See entry on page 72



26 ALDERHOLT MILL

Alderholt

A working water mill offering both bed & breakfast and self-catering accommodation.

See entry on page 74



in the world. The museum's Millennium project was the restoration of an extremely rare Bavarian four-train turret clock of the 16th century, a fascinating piece of horological wizardry.

On **Breamore Down** is one of those oddities whose origins and purpose remain a mystery: this is a mizmaze, a circular maze cut in the turf down as far as the chalk. Further north can be seen part of Grim's Ditch, built in late-Roman times as a defence against the Saxons.

BURLEY

4 miles SE of Ringwood off the A31

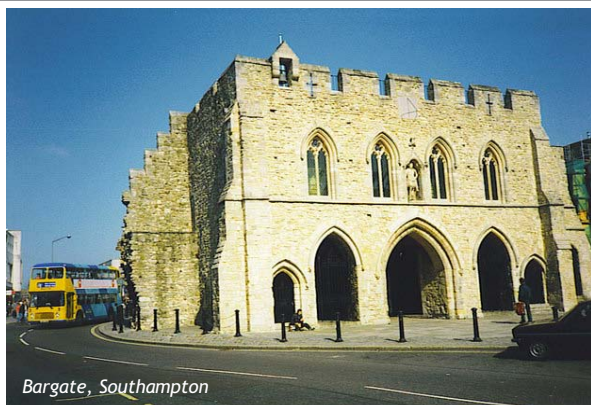
At Burley, it's very clear that you are in the heart of the New Forest, with woodland running right through the village. A pleasant way to experience the peacefulness of the surrounding forest is to take a trip with **Burley Wagon Rides**, which run from the centre of the village. Rides in the open wagons last from 20 minutes to one hour and are available from Easter to October. This lovely, unspoilt village with its picturesque thatched cottages, is also home to **New Forest Cider** where farmhouse cider is still made the old-fashioned way from local orchard apples and cider fruit. Visitors can taste and buy draught cider from barrels stored in the former cowshed. The centre is open most times throughout the year although ideally you should time your visit to coincide with pressing time when the grand old cider press is in operation.

27 THE STATION HOUSE AT HOLMSLEY

Holmsley

Exquisite tea house and bistro situated in the heart of the New Forest serving breakfast, morning coffee, lunch, afternoon tea and evening meals, during the summer, with a contemporary bistro-style menu.

See entry on page 75



Bargate, Southampton

SOUTHAMPTON

From this historic port, Henry V set sail for Agincourt in 1415, the Pilgrim Fathers embarked on their perilous journey to the New World in 1620, and, on April 10th, 1912, the *Titanic* set off on its maiden voyage, steaming majestically into the Solent. More recently, in 2004, the *Queen Mary 2* set sail on her first voyage.

As a major seaport, Southampton was a prime target for air raids during World War II and suffered grievously. But the city can still boast a surprising number of ancient buildings - no fewer than 60 scheduled Ancient Monuments and more than 450 listed buildings. Substantial stretches of the medieval **Town Walls** have miraculously survived, its ramparts interspersed with fortifications such as the oddly-named 15th century **Catchcold Tower** and **God's House Gate and Tower**, which now houses the city's archaeological museum. Perhaps the most impressive feature of the walls is **Bargate**, one of the finest medieval city gates in the country. From its construction around 1200 until the 1930s, Bargate remained the principal entrance to the city. Its narrow archway is so low that Southampton Corporation's trams had to be specially modified for them to pass through. Inside the arch stands a statue of George III, cross-dressing as a Roman Emperor. Bargate now stands in its own pedestrianised area; its

upper floor once the former **Guildhall**.

Another remarkable survivor is the **Medieval Merchant's House** (English Heritage) in French Street, which has been expertly restored and authentically furnished, now appearing just as it was when it was built around 1290. One of the most popular visitor attractions in Southampton is the **Tudor House Museum & Garden**, a lovely 15th century house with an award-winning Tudor Garden complete with fountain, bee skeps (baskets) and 16th century herbs and flowers. The Tudor House opened its doors again in the summer of 2011 following restoration that has added a new café, displays and audio tours.

Southampton's **City Art Gallery** in the Civic Centre is a treasure house of works ranging over six centuries, while the John Hansard Gallery in the University of Southampton and the Millais Gallery in Southampton Solent University specialise in contemporary art. Entry to all three galleries is free. The painter Sir John Millais was a native of Southampton, as was Isaac Watts, the hymnologist whose many enduring hymns include *O God, Our Help In Ages Past*. Other natives of Southampton include Admiral Earl Jellicoe, Benny Hill, Ken Russell, the MP John Stonehouse and the TV gardener Charlie Dimmock.

There's so much history to savour in the city, but Southampton has also proclaimed itself 'a City for the New Millennium'. Major developments include the flagship shopping area of WestQuay, the enhancement of the city's impressive central parks, the superbly appointed Leisure World; the state-of-the-art swimming and diving complex, which incorporates separate championship, diving and fun pools, and Ocean Village, an imaginatively conceived waterfront complex

with its own 450-berth marina, undercover shopping, excellent restaurants and a multi-screen cinema. The most recent project is the transformation of **Guildhall Square**, which is at the centre of a developing Cultural Quarter. The dynamic, contemporary space will eventually be home to a new Arts Complex and, as a focal point, the **Sea City Museum**. The museum will charter the history of the *Titanic* and is due to open in 2012 to coincide with the 100-year anniversary of the sinking of the massive liner.

The city also occupies an important place in aviation history. A short step from Ocean Village, **Solent Sky** presents the story of aviation in the Solent and incorporates the RJ Mitchell Memorial Museum. Mitchell lived and worked in Southampton in the 1930s and not only designed the Spitfire but also the S6 Seaplane, which won the coveted Schneider Trophy in 1929. The centrepiece is the spectacular Sandringham Flying Boat that visitors can board and feel envious about the glamour and luxury of air travel in the past. Solent Sky is open from 10 to 5 Monday to Saturday, 12 to 5 Sunday; closed Monday except during school and public holidays.

As you'd expect in a city with such a glorious maritime heritage, Southampton offers a huge choice of boat excursions, whether along the River Hamble, around the Solent, or over to the Isle of Wight. Blue Funnel Cruises operate from Ocean Village; Solent Cruises from Town Quay.

AROUND SOUTHAMPTON

WEST END

4 miles NE of Southampton off the A27

An ideal destination for a family outing is **Itchen Valley Country Park** on the outskirts of Southampton. Its 440 acres of water meadows, ancient woodland, conifer plantations and grazing pasture lie either side of the meandering River Itchen, famous for its clear waters and excellent fishing. The Park is managed by Eastleigh Borough Council's Countryside Service to provide

28 TUCKS CAFÉ

Southampton

Excellent value for money and generous helpings of straightforward café food. Seat yourself outside in their award winning garden patio.

See entry on page 74





Itchen Valley Country Park, West End

informal recreation, enhance and conserve wildlife habitats and as an educational resource. The best place to begin your visit is the High Wood Barn Visitor Centre, an attractive timber structure built in the style of a 17th century Hampshire Aisle Barn. From the Visitor Centre, waymarked trails help you to discover the different areas of the Park and an informative leaflet reveals the history and wildlife of a landscape shaped by hundreds of years of traditional farming and woodland management. Children are well-provided for at the park. In High Hill Field there's an adventure play area for the under-14s that includes an aerial runway, and behind the Visitor Centre a play area for the under-9s has giant woodland animals designed by local school-children and built by sculptor Andy Frost.

EASTLEIGH

5 miles NE of Southampton on the A335

Eastleigh is first mentioned in a charter of AD 932 but it wasn't until some 900 years later that it began to expand. That was when the Eastleigh Carriage and Engine Works were established in the town. At one time the works covered 60 acres and employed 3600 people. The town's railway connection is commemorated by Jill Tweed's sculpture, *The Railwayman*, which stands in the town centre.

Nearby, in a former Salvation Army building, is the **Eastleigh Museum** whose

exhibits concentrate on the town's railway heritage; a re-creation of an engine drivers home and of part of a locomotive works helps to tell the story of what life was once like in the town. Visiting heritage, art, craft and photography exhibitions are also held here. The **Point Dance and Arts Centre** stages a full programme of theatre, dance, cinema and music events, while the **Beatrice Royal Contemporary Art and Craft Gallery** offers exhibitions of art, sculpture, ceramics, jewellery and textiles.

Just outside the town is the **Lakeside Country Park**, home to a variety of wildlife and also a place for model boating, windsurfing and fishing. Here too is the **Eastleigh Lakeside Railway**, a miniature steam railway that provides trips around the park.

BISHOP'S WALTHAM

10 miles NE of Southampton (on the B2177/B3035)

Bishop's Waltham is a charming and historic small town. It was the country residence of the Bishops of Winchester for centuries and through the portals of their sumptuous **Palace** has passed at least 12 reigning monarchs. Amongst them were Richard the Lionheart returning from the Crusades, Henry V mustering his army before setting off for Agincourt, and Henry VIII entertaining Charles V of Spain (then the most powerful monarch in Europe) to a lavish banquet. The palace's days of glory came to a violent end during the Civil War when Cromwell's troops battered most of it to the ground. The last resident bishop was forced to flee, concealing himself beneath a load of manure.

Set within beautiful moated grounds the ruins remain impressive, especially the Great Hall with its 3-storey tower and soaring windows. Also here are the remains of the bakehouse, kitchen, chapel and lodgings for visitors. The Palace is now in the care of English Heritage and entrance is free.

The town itself offers visitors a good choice of traditional and specialist shops, amongst them a renowned fishmonger,

butcher, baker - even a candle-maker. And just north of the town you can visit one of the country's leading vineyards. Visitors to **Northbrook Springs Vineyard** are offered a tour of the vineyard, which explains the complex, labour-intensive process of planting, growing, pruning and harvesting the vines, and a free tasting in the Vineyard Shop (open Tuesday to Sunday) of a selection of crisp, clear, flavourful wines.

DROXFORD

13 miles NE of Southampton on the A32

Droxford is one of the larger and most attractive villages in the Meon Valley. It has some fine Georgian houses, an 18th century mill now converted into a private house, and a church dating from 1599 - one of very few built during the reign of Elizabeth I. From the churchyard, a path leading down to the River Meon would have been familiar to the 'Compleat Angler', Izaak Walton, who loved this river above all others. He was a frequent visitor to Droxford as his daughter was

married to the rector and Izaak spent the last years of his life at the rectory.

Just across the river, the hamlet of Brockbridge once had its own railway station on the Meon Valley line. During World War II, Churchill, Eisenhower, de Gaulle and Jan Smuts all gathered here in a railway carriage to discuss the invasion of France.

BOTLEY

6 miles E of Southampton on the A334

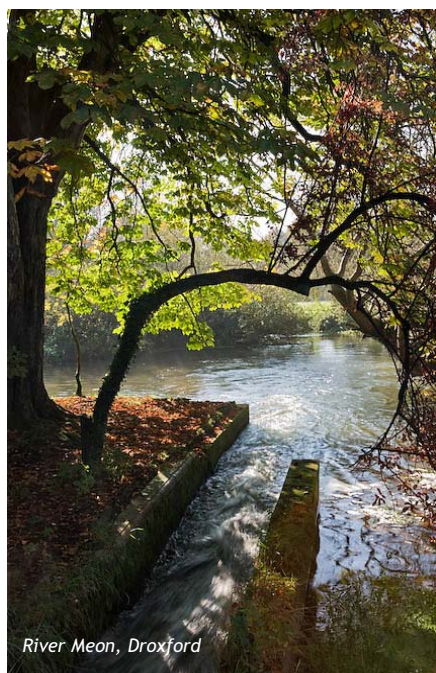
Set beside the River Hamble, Botley is an attractive village of red brick houses, which remains as pleasant now as when William Cobbett, the 19th century writer and political commentator, described it as 'the most delightful village in the world...it has everything in a village I love and none of the things I hate'. The latter included a workhouse, attorneys, justices of the peace - and barbers. The author of *Rural Rides* lived a very comfortable life in Botley between 1804 and 1817 and he is honoured by a memorial in the Market Square.

NETLEY

5 miles SE of Southampton off the A3025

A Victorian town on the shores of the Solent, Netley was brought into prominence when a vast military hospital was built here after the Crimean War. The foundation stone of **Netley Hospital** was laid by Queen Victoria in 1856 and the hospital remained in use until after World War II. A disastrous fire in the 1960s caused most of the buildings to be demolished but the hospital's chapel, with its distinctive 100feet tower, did survive and now houses an exhibition about the hospital from the time of Florence Nightingale. The rest of the site has been developed as the **Royal Victoria Country Park** offering woodland and coastal walks, waymarked themed and nature trails, and trips around the park on a miniature steam railway.

Heritage of a different kind can be found at ruined **Netley Abbey** (English Heritage), a wonderfully serene spot surrounded by noble trees. 'These are not the ruins of Netley' declared Horace Walpole in the mid-1700s,



River Meon, Droxford

“but of Paradise”. Jane Austen was equally entranced by the Abbey’s romantic charm and she made many visits. Dating back to 1300, the extensive ruins provide a spectacular backdrop for open-air theatre performances during the summer.

BURSLEDON

6 miles SE of Southampton
off the A3024

Anyone interested in England’s industrial heritage should pay a visit to Bursledon. Ships have been built here since medieval times, the most famous being the *Elephant*, Nelson’s flagship at the Battle of Copenhagen. The yard where it was built, now renamed the Elephant Boatyard, is still in business.

The village can boast another unique industrial site. When **Bursledon Brickworks** was established in 1897 the machinery installed was at the very forefront of brick-making technology. The works closed in 1974 but a charitable trust has now restored its gargantuan machines, thus preserving the last surviving example of a steam-driven brickworks in the country. Special events are held here from time to time but the works are only open on a limited basis.

Bursledon Windmill is the only working windmill in Hampshire. Built in 1813 at a cost of £800, its vanes ground to a halt during the great agricultural depression of the 1880s. Happily, all the machinery remained intact and after a lengthy restoration between 1976 and 1991, the sails are revolving once again

29 BURSLEDON WINDMILL

Bursledon

The last surviving working windmill in Hampshire, built in 1814, has been restored and is in full working order.

See entry on page 76



Hamble Ferry

whenever a good northerly or southerly wind is blowing. The mill produces stone-grained flour for sale and is open to visitors Sunday and bank holidays (pre-booking required).

HAMBLE

7 miles SE of Southampton on the B3397

Famous throughout the world as a yachting centre, Hamble takes its name from the river, a mere 10 miles long, that flows past the village into Southampton Water. Some 3,000 vessels have berths in the Hamble Estuary, hence there are an incredible variety of boats thronging the river during the season, anything from vintage barges to the sleekest of modern craft. There are even a few fishing boats bringing in fresh fish to sell on the quay, which is also the starting point for the summer river bus offering trips along the river. On the western bank of the River Hamble, just upstream from the village, lies **Manor Farm Country Park**, an area of ancient woodland and farmland with the old traditional farmhouse at its heart. A typical Victorian farm has been reconstructed, with a wheelwright’s shop and a Victorian schoolroom. Other attractions include vintage tractors and farm machinery, farm animals and riverside and woodland walks.

To the south of Hamble is **Hamble Common**, an area of coastal heath providing a wide variety of habitats. On the shoreline stand the minimal ruins of a castle built in 1543 and at the eastern tip of the common is a Bofors anti-aircraft gun, installed in 1989 to

replace one that had helped protect the docks and oil terminals further up Southampton Water during World War II.

PARK GATE

8 miles SE of Southampton on the A27

Back in the days when strawberries still had real taste and texture, Park Gate was the main distribution centre for the produce of the extensive strawberry farms all around. During the season, scores of special trains were contracted to transport the succulent fruit to London, some 3,000 tons of it in 1913 alone. By the 1960s, housing had taken priority over fruit farms and today the M27 marks a very clear division between the built up areas to the south, and the unspoilt acres of countryside to the north.



Portsmouth Historic Dockyard

history, **HMS Victory**. From the outside it's a majestic, three-masted ship; inside it's creepily claustrophobic, except for the Admiral's and Captain's spacious, mahogany-panelled quarters. Visitors can pace the very same deck from which Nelson master-minded the decisive encounter with the French navy off Cape Trafalgar in 1805. Standing on this deck, ostentatiously arrayed in the gorgeous uniform of a British Admiral of the Fleet, Nelson presented a clear target to a sharp-sighted French sniper. The precise spot where Nelson fell and the place on the sheltered orlop (lowest) deck where he died are both marked by plaques.

The death of Nelson was a tragedy softened by a halo of victory: the loss of the *Mary Rose*, some 260 years earlier was an unmitigated disaster. Henry VIII had ordered the ship, the second largest in his fleet, to be built. He was standing on Southsea Castle above Portsmouth in 1545, watching the *Mary Rose* manoeuvre, when it suddenly heeled over and sank. All but about 30 members of its 415-strong crew were lost. "And the king he screeched right out like any maid, 'Oh, my gentlemen! Oh, my gallant men!'" More than four centuries later, in 1982, the hulk of the *Mary Rose* was carefully raised from the seabed where it had lain for so long. The impressive remains are now housed in the timber-clad **Mary Rose Museum**, which is currently closed while a new museum is being built, due to open autumn 2012. The new gallery space will correspond to the principal decks running the length of the ship, enabling ten times as many artifacts salvaged from the

PORTSMOUTH

The only island city in the UK, Portsmouth promotes itself as the 'Waterfront City'. Visitors can stroll for miles along the scenic waterfront that passes through Old Portsmouth and along Southsea's Victorian seafront. It's a great place for watching the great ships negotiating the Solent, ferries on their way to Hayling Island, Gosport or the Isle of Wight, and the scores of colourful pleasure craft.

Portsmouth is also often described as Flagship City. With good reason, since **Portsmouth Historic Dockyard** is home to the most famous flagship in British naval

30 PORTSMOUTH HISTORIC DOCKYARD

Portsmouth

A superb day out for all the family. HMS Victory, HMS Warrior and the remains of the *Mary Rose* can all be seen as well as various interactive displays to test your skills.

See entry on page 77



Marie Rose to be displayed. The partly restored ship's hull will take centre stage and visitors will be able to witness the conservation process as it continues until 2016. A recent study claims that the sinking of the vessel was not due to the high wind, open gun ports and poor seamanship but to French gunfire. Having been holed and taking a quantity of water into her hull, she manoeuvred into a firing position, causing the water in the hold to move and capsize the vessel. The reasons given at the time are now held by some to have been invented to protect the reputation of the British Navy.

Another ship you can see at Portsmouth doesn't possess the same historical glamour as the *Victory* or the *Mary Rose*, but **HMS Warrior** merits a visit because when this mighty craft was commissioned in 1860, she was the Navy's first ironclad warship. A great advance in technology, but the distinctions between the officers' and crew accommodation show little difference from those obtaining in Nelson's day. Portsmouth's naval connection remains as strong as ever. In January 2009 a new kind of warship was greeted with a 15-gun salute, with hundreds of people, including the families of crew members. *HMS Daring* is the first of six Type 45 warships built to replace the ageing Type 42s.

Also within the dockyard area are the **National Museum of the Royal Navy**, which has a marvellous exhibition on the life and exploits of Nelson; and **The Dockyard Apprentice** where visitors can become a new apprentice for a day and learn the skills that helped construct the impressive Dreadnought battleships. Here too can be found **Action Stations**, a unique experience that brings the modern Royal Navy to life. Visitors can take command of one of the Navy's most advanced warships, 'fly' in a replica of a Merlin helicopter, and join the Royal Marines on exercise.

Opened in 2005 and dominating the Portsmouth skyline is the **Spinnaker Tower**, a striking building representing a billowing spinnaker sail. There are stunning sea views from the glass panoramic lift, which stops at viewing platforms at 300feet, 315feet and



Spinnaker Tower, Portsmouth

330feet high - the topmost one open to the elements. The recently installed second-floor café is a great spot from which to sit back and enjoy the views while new for 2011, a touch-screen ship finder allows visitors to identify vessels within 23 miles of the tower. The tallest publicly accessible structure in Britain, it reaches a final height of 550feet. It is set within Gunwharf Quays, a vibrant waterfront development with shops, bars and restaurants.

Like Southampton, Portsmouth suffered badly during World War II, losing most of its 17th and 18th century buildings. **St George's Church**, a handsome Georgian building of 1754 with large galleries, was damaged by a bomb but has been fully restored, and just to the north of the church, the barn-like **Beneficial Boy's School**, built in 1784, is another survivor. The oldest church building is **Portsmouth Cathedral**, which dates back to 1188 although it was not consecrated as a cathedral until the 1920s. Naturally, the cathedral has strong connections with the Royal Navy: it contains the grave of a crew member of the *Mary Rose*; a fragment of the white ensign from *HMS Victory*; and some notable stained glass windows commemorating D-Day and the Normandy landings.

Portsmouth also offers visitors a wealth of

varied museums, two of which deserve special mention. At the **City Museum** you can discover how life in Portsmouth has changed over the centuries, portrayed through reconstructions of a 17th century bedchamber, 1871 dockyard worker's kitchen and a Victorian parlour. Another exhibition allows you to experience the world of Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes. The **Charles Dickens Birthplace Museum** at 393, Old Commercial Road, has been restored and furnished to show how the house looked when the great novelist was born here in 1812.

AROUND PORTSMOUTH

SOUTHSEA

1 mile S of Portsmouth on the A288

Now a suburb of Portsmouth, Southsea developed as a select residential area in the early 1800s. By the 1860s, it was well established as a stylish seaside resort with elegant Victorian villas, tree-lined streets, green open spaces and colourful formal gardens.

One of the most interesting buildings in the town is **Southsea Castle**, which was built in 1544 as one of Henry VIII's series of forts protecting the south coast from French attacks. It has been modified several times since then but the original keep is still intact and there are fine views across the Solent



Castle and Lighthouse, Southsea

from the gun platforms. Inside, there's an exhibition on the military history of Portsmouth, displays of artillery and underground tunnels to explore.

Along the seafront are two more military museums: the **Royal Marines Museum** that tells the fascinating story of this elite group around the world, and the **D-Day Museum & Overlord Embroidery**, which commemorates the Allied invasion of Europe in 1944 and is most notable for the 83-metre-long Overlord Tapestry, a 20th century equivalent of the Bayeux Tapestry. Away from military matters, the **Natural History Museum** explores the diversity of wildlife in the area and includes a display showing what a natural history museum would have looked like in Victorian times. Between May and September, visitors can also enjoy walking through the Butterfly House filled with living insects and plants.

One major attraction in Southsea is the **Blue Reef Aquarium** where you can enjoy close encounters with sharks and rays, stroll through the spectacular underwater tunnel and watch otters at play in their riverside home.

HAVANT

6 miles NE of Portsmouth on the B2149

Havant developed from a network of ancient springs and a Roman crossroads to become a leading centre for the manufacture of leather goods, gloves and parchment. Now a thriving market town, characterized by its fine

Georgian buildings and narrow weaving footpaths called Twittens, most of the town centre is a conservation area. You can find out more about the town's past by visiting free the **Spring Arts and Heritage Centre** on East Street. To the north of Havant lies **Staunton Country Park**, where the grounds include some interesting follies, an ornamental farm with animals, gardens, a tropical greenhouse, maze and puzzle garden, shop and tea room.

South of Havant lies

picturesque Langstone and its harbour, once the haunt of smugglers. Today it's an important RSPB site and the winter home of thousands of wildfowl and waders. Before the first bridge was built between Hayling Island and Langstone in 1824, travelers crossed the water by the ancient walkway, which is still visible at the bottom of the thatched-cottage lined High Street at low tide.



Stansted House, Rowland's Castle

HORNDEAN

9 miles NE of Portsmouth off the A3

This busy large village has a long association with the brewing industry and, in particular, with **George Gale & Co**, a brewery that was founded in Horndean in 1847. Sadly, the company was acquired by Fuller's in 2005 and its award-winning HSB Prize Old Ale is no longer brewed and bottled here. Until the closure of the brewery in 2006, Gales was Hampshire's only remaining independent family-owned brewery. Horndean is also home to the **Goss & Crested China Museum**, which houses the world's largest collection of these popular Victorian and Edwardian souvenirs that have not been manufactured since the 1930s.

ROWLAND'S CASTLE

9 miles NE of Portsmouth off the B2149

This small village with its long green takes its name from a medieval castle whose ruins are largely obscured by a massive railway viaduct. To the southeast stands one of the area's most elegant stately homes, **Stansted Park**, a fine example of Caroline Revival architecture surrounded by 1700 acres of glorious park and woodland. Originally built in 1688, the house was virtually destroyed by a great fire in 1900 but was rebuilt in exactly the same style. The superbly grand state rooms contain some fine Dutch Old Master paintings and 18th century Brussels tapestries, and visitors are invited to enjoy a

'below stairs experience'. Outside, the grounds contain an exquisitely decorated chapel, a restored circular well head garden, an arboretum, falconry, Victorian glasshouses, woodland walks, children's play area and (tea rooms).

WARBLINGTON

6 miles NE of Portsmouth off the A27

The **Church of St Thomas à Becket** here has a rather unusual timbered spire but the real curiosity is to be found in the graveyard - a pair of stone grave-watchers' huts. These were erected at a time when body snatching to provide corpses for medical schools was widespread. From these huts, men could guard the graves of recently interred corpses.

The cemetery is on the route of the long-distance Solent Way Footpath, one of many waymarked walks in the county.

EMSWORTH

6 miles NE of Portsmouth on the A27

This picturesque fishing village in the upper reaches of Chichester Harbour was once the principal port in the harbour with a long history of oyster dredging, milling and boat-building. It's now best known for its annual **Emsworth Food Festival**, held each year in September, when the town's pubs, restaurants and cafés join forces to showcase locally produced speciality food. The name 'Emsworth' will be familiar to devotees of PG

Wodehouse who used it in several of his comic novels. He lived in Emsworth for some time in Record Road where a blue plaque marks his house. His stay in the village is recalled in the Emsworth Museum, which also has exhibits reflecting its great fishing days, including a model of the *Echo*, the largest sailing fishing vessel out of any British port.

HAYLING ISLAND

4 miles E of Portsmouth on the A3023

A traditional family resort for well over a century, Hayling Island manages to provide all the usual seaside facilities without losing its rural character, particularly in the northern part. Much of the foreshore is still open ground with wandering sand dunes stretching well back from the 4-mile-long shingle beach. Bathing is safe here and West Beachlands even boasts a European Blue Flag, which is only awarded to beaches meeting 26 environmental criteria. One of Hayling's more unusual beach facilities is the line of old-fashioned beach huts, all of which are available to rent.

A good way to explore the island is to follow the **Hayling Billy Leisure Trail**, once the Hayling Billy railway line, which provides a level footpath around most of the 14 miles of shoreline and the West Hayling Local Nature Reserve.

Hayling is something of a Mecca for board sailors. Not only does it provide the best sailing in the UK for beginners and experts alike, it is also the place where windsurfing was invented. Many places claim that honour but Peter Chilvers has a High Court ruling to prove it. In 1982 a judge decided that Mr Chilvers had indeed invented the sailboard at Hayling in 1958. As a boy of ten, he used a sheet of plywood, a tent fly-sheet, a pole and some curtain rings to sail up an island creek. Fame recently came to a Hayling Island resident by way of an appearance on one of the Royal Mail's 2008 Christmas pantomime-themed stamps. Actress Wendy



Hayling Island Beach Huts

Adams-Evans represented the Wicked Queen from *Snow White* on the 81p stamp.

GOSPORT

2 miles W of Portsmouth on the A32

Gosport has a long history of maritime associations and today continues this centuries-old tradition as a premier sailing centre with international marinas that have emerged from its waterfront development. Though history is never far away in Gosport. Home to another of Palmerston's forts, the circular **Fort Brockhurst** (English Heritage), which is in almost mint condition, can be viewed on certain Saturdays. At the **Royal Navy Submarine Museum**, located at *HMS Dolphin*, visitors can experience a century of submarines. Stories of undersea adventures and the heroism of the Royal Navy's submarine services are recounted and there are also guided tours around *HMS Alliance*, a late World War II submarine.

The town's connections with the Royal Navy are further explored at **Explosion! The**

31 THE MUSEUM OF NAVAL FIREPOWER

Gosport

A hands on, interactive Museum telling the story of naval warfare, from the days of gunpowder to modern missiles.

See entry on page 76



Museum of Naval Firepower, which is dedicated to the people who prepared armaments used by the Navy from the Battle of Trafalgar to the present day. As well as browsing through the unique collection of small arms, cannons, guns, mines and torpedoes, visitors can experience the pitch and roll of a moving gun-deck, help move barrels of gunpowder, and dodge mines on the seabed.

Away from the Navy's influence on the town, there is Gosport's splendid **Holy Trinity Church**, which contains an organ that was played by George Frederick Handel when he was music master to the Duke of Chandos. And for those who enjoy a proper pint of ale, brewed in traditional fashion, the **Oakleaf Brewery** offers tours by arrangement. Further inland, a short walk in woods will take you back to 1642 and the **17th Century Village**, where you can talk to villagers as they go about their daily lives and join them in a journey back in time. Neaby you can visit the **Wildgrounds**, a 67-acre nature reserve that sits within the Alver Valley Park with trails through woodlands and the chance to spot a woodpecker or two.

Back on the waterfront, the ferry runs on a regular bases across to Portsmouth and offers good views of the waterfront from all aspects. The village of **Alverstoke** is just five-minute drive from the town centre with its quaint village shops, bistros and pub, while the historic Crescent and the beautifully restored regency Crescent

Gardens are also nearby.

In April 2011, the Historical Diving Society opened the **Diving Museum** in an old Battery; the museum will bring back into use a historic building and provide an opportunity to view an array of atifacts from private and public collections.

PORTCHESTER

3 miles NW of Portsmouth on the A27

Standing at the head of Portsmouth Harbour, **Portchester Castle** is not only the grandest medieval castle in the county but also stands within the best-preserved site of a Roman fort in northern Europe. Sometime around AD 280, the Romans enclosed 8 acres of this strategic headland and used it as a base for their ships clearing the Channel of pirates. The original walls of the fort were 20feet high and 10feet thick, their depth much reduced later by local people pillaging the stone for their own buildings.

The medieval castle dates back to 1120 although the most substantial ruins are those of the royal palace built for Richard II between 1396 and 1399. Richard was murdered in 1399 and never saw his magnificent castle. Also within the walls of the Roman enclosure is **Portchester Church**, a superb Norman construction built between 1133 and 1150 as part of an Augustinian Priory. For some reason, the Priors moved inland to Southwick, and the church remained disused for more than five and a half

centuries until Queen Anne personally donated £400 for its restoration. Apart from the east end, the church is entirely Norman and, remarkably, its 12th century font of wondrously carved Caen stone has also survived the centuries.

FAREHAM

6 miles NW of Portsmouth on the A27

Fareham has expanded greatly since Thackeray described it as a 'dear little Hampshire town'. It still has considerable charm and



Portchester Castle

the handsome houses on the High Street reflect its prosperous days as a ship-building centre. Many aspects of the town's history are featured in **Westbury Manor Museum**, which occupies a large 17th century town house in the centre of Fareham. This old market town is also home to **The Royal Armouries at Fort Nelson** whose displays of artillery dating from the Middle Ages form one of the finest collections of its kind in the world. Among the 300 guns on show are a Roman catapult; a wrought-iron monster of 1450 that could fire a 60-kilogram granite ball almost a mile; Flemish guns captured at Waterloo; and parts of the notorious Iraqi 'Supergun'. Visitors can see some of the guns in action at daily firings and at special event days when the dramatic interpretations include accounts of the defence of Rorke's Drift, experiences under shellfire in the World War I trenches, and a Royalist account of the execution of Charles I.

TITCHFIELD

9 miles NW of Portsmouth on the A27

Just to the north of the village are the ruins of the 13th century **Titchfield Abbey**, its presence reflecting the former prominence of Titchfield as an important market town and a thriving port on the River Meon. The parish church contains a notable treasure in the form of the **Wriothsesley Monument**, which was carved by a Flemish sculptor in the late 1500s. This remarkable and massive work is a triple tomb chest depicting Thomas Wriothsesley, 1st Earl of Southampton, along with his wife and son. It was the 1st earl who converted part of the now ruined abbey into a house and it was there that his grandson, the 3rd earl, entertained William Shakespeare.

WICKHAM

8 miles NW of Portsmouth on the A334

This village was the home of William of Wykeham (1324-1404), one of the most eminent men of his day. He served as Chancellor of England and Bishop of Winchester, and amongst many other benefactions was founder of both Winchester College and New College, Oxford.

To the northwest of the village at Shedfield is **Wickham Vineyard**, which was established in the 1980s and has expanded over the years. The vineyard and modern winery are open to visitors who can take advantage of an audio tour, sample the wines and browse through the gift shop.

The mill by the bridge over the River Meon in Wickham will be of interest to American visitors since it contains beams from the American frigate, *Chesapeake*, which was captured in 1813 off Boston by the British frigate *Shannon*. The mill is now open as a craft retail centre complete with a lovely tearoom.

ANDOVER

Andover has expanded greatly since the 1960s when it was selected as a 'spillover' town to relieve the pressure on London's crowded population. But the core of this ancient town, which was already important in Saxon times, retains much of interest. One outstanding landmark is **St Mary's Church**, completely rebuilt in the 1840s at the expense of a former headmaster of Winchester College. It is said that the interior has been modelled on Salisbury Cathedral and if it doesn't quite match up to that sublime building, St Mary's is still well worth a visit.

Equally striking is the **Guildhall** of 1825, built in classical style, which stands alone in the Market Place where markets are still held every Thursday and Saturday. Andover has also managed to retain half a dozen of the 16 coaching inns that serviced 18th century travellers at a time when the fastest stage

32 THE CLATFORD ARMS

Goodworth Clatford

A welcoming pub offering a well stocked bar, fantastic freshly prepared food and a delightful beer garden.

See entry on page 78



AROUND ANDOVER

FACCOMBE

9 miles N of Andover off the A343

This appealing little village, which is owned by the Facombe Estate, is tucked away in the Hampshire countryside close to the Berkshire border, set on chalk Downs some 750 feet above sea level, with the highest points of the North Downs, Pilot Hill and Inkpen Beacon, both nearby. An extra attraction for walkers is the Test Way, a long-distance footpath that runs from Inkpen Beacon to the south coast following the track of the disused 'Sprat & Winkle' railway.

About 5 miles west of Facombe, just inside Berkshire, **Highclere Castle** is a wondrous example of Victorian neo-Gothic architecture at its most exuberant. If the central tower reminds you of another well-known building, that may be because the castle was designed by Sir Charles Barry, architect of the Houses of Parliament. Highclere stands on the site of a former palace of the Bishops of Winchester, overlooking an incomparably lovely park, one of 'Capability' Brown's greatest creations. The ornate architecture and furnishings of the castle interior delight many visitors; others feel somewhat queasy at its unrelenting richness. Highclere is the

family home of the 8th Earl and Countess of Carnarvon. It was the present earl's great-grandfather who in 1922 was with Howard Carter at the opening of Tutankhamun's tomb. A small museum in the basement of the castle recalls that breath-taking moment. Another display reflects the family's interest in horse racing. For more than a century, Earls of Carnarvon have owned, bred and raced horses, and the 7th earl was racing manager to the queen. In addition to the superb parkland, there's also a Walled Garden, planted entirely with white blooms, a gift shop, restaurant and tearooms. In more recent times, Highclere Castle has become famous as the location where ITV's hugely successful period drama *Downton Abbey* was filmed.

BURGHCLERE

11 miles NE of Andover off the A34

A couple of miles northeast of Highclere Castle, at Burghclere, the **Sandham Memorial Chapel** (National Trust) is, from the outside, a rather unappealing construction, erected in 1926 by Mr and Mrs JL Behrend in memory of a relation, Lieutenant Sandham, who died in World War I. Their building may be uninspired but the Behrends can't be faulted on their choice of artist to cover the inside walls with a series of 19 murals. Stanley Spencer had served during the war as a hospital orderly and 18

of his murals represent the day-to-day life of a British Tommy in wartime. The 19th, covering the east wall of the Chapel, depicts the Day of Resurrection with the fallen men and their horses rising up. A pile of white wooden crosses that the soldiers have cast aside dominates the foreground. The whole series is enormously moving, undoubtedly one of the masterpieces of 20th century British art.



Highclere Castle

LONGPARISH

5 miles E of Andover on the B3048

Living up to its name, Longparish village straggles alongside the River Test for more than two miles. This stretch of the river is famously full of trout but no one has yet beaten the record catch of Colonel Peter Hawker who lived at Longparish House in the early 1800s. According to his diary for 1818, in that year this dedicated angler relieved the river of no less than one ton's weight of the succulent fish. A previous owner of the colonel's house had actually captured double that haul in one year, but the boulder had cheated by dragging the river.

Longparish Upper Mill, in a lovely location on the river, is a large flourmill with a working waterwheel.

WHITCHURCH

6 miles E of Andover on the B3400

This small market town was once an important coach stop on the London to Exeter route. The coaching inns have gone but the town still boasts a unique attraction – the 18th century **Whitchurch Silk Mill**, the last such working mill in the south of England. Located on Frog Island in the River Test, the mill's waterwheel has been fully restored although today's power is provided by electricity. The mill now functions as a museum making silks for interiors and costume dramas such as the BBC's acclaimed production of *Pride and Prejudice*. Visitors can see the working waterwheel, watch the late-19th century looms weave the silk, have a go at weaving on a hand loom, view the textile and costume exhibition, and enjoy the riverside garden. There's also a tearoom and

gift shop. To the east of Whitchurch is **Bere Mill**, a weather-boarded construction where Frenchman Henri Portal set up a papermaking business in the early 18th century. By 1742 the mill had won the contract to supply banknote paper to the Bank of England and Portal moved his operation upstream to Laverstoke. The business continues from premises in Overton.

STOCKBRIDGE

6 miles S of Andover on the A3057/A30

The trout-rich River Test flows through, under and alongside Stockbridge's broad main street, which reflects the street's earlier role as part of a drover's road. The town attracts many visitors for its famous antique shops, art galleries and charming tearooms. Two exclusive clubs strictly control fishing on the River Test at this point but visitors may be lucky enough to catch glimpses of the fish from the bridge on the High Street.

Just to the south of Stockbridge are **Houghton Lodge Gardens**, the spacious gardens of an 18th century 'cottage orné' which have the tranquil beauty of the River Test as their border. Chalk cob walls shelter a kitchen garden with ancient espaliered fruit trees, glasshouses and herb garden, whilst in the Hydroponicum greenhouse plants are grown 'without soil, toil or chemical pesticides'.

MIDDLE WALLOP

7 miles SW of Andover on the A343

The village of Middle Wallop became famous during the Battle of Britain when the nearby airfield was the base for squadrons of Spitfires and Hurricanes. Many of the old buildings have been incorporated into the **Museum of Army Flying**, which traces the development of Army Flying from the man-lifting balloons and kites of pre-World War I years, through various imaginative dioramas, to a helicopter flight simulator in which visitors can test their own skills of 'hand and eye' co-ordination. There's a collection of more than 35 helicopters and fixed wing aircraft and other attractions include a

33 THE RED HOUSE

Whitchurch

If you are looking for rural charm, tradition and history set in a convenient location then The Red House will fulfil all of this and more.

See entry on page 78



Museum of Army Flying, Middle Wallop



NETHER WALLOP

8 miles SW of Andover off the A343

The names of the three Wallops, (Over, Middle and Nether), have provided a good deal of amusement to visitors over the centuries, so it's slightly disappointing to discover that Wallop is just a corruption of the Old English word *waell-hop*, meaning a valley with a stream. At Nether Wallop, the prettiest of the three, the stream is picturesquely lined with willow

museum shop, licensed café & restaurant, and a grassed picnic area. The highlight of the museum's year is the Music in the Air event at the end of July. As the strains of a live orchestra ring out, the air is filled with breathtaking synchronised flying displays by aerial artistes such as the Red Devils. In the 1920s Middle Wallop, with its picturesque timber-framed thatched buildings, became familiar to television viewers when it provided the main location for the 'Miss Marple' mysteries.

Situated about a mile to the east of the village, **Danebury Vineyards** welcomes groups of visitors by arrangement for a guided tour of the 6 acres of vines and winery. Tastings and dinners can also be arranged. The vineyard was planted in 1988 on south facing slopes of free draining chalk, an excellent spot for the varieties of grape grown here. The British climate generally results in a late-ripening crop producing grapes, which are most suitable for the white wines with which Danebury Vineyards has made its name. About three miles east of Middle Wallop, **Danebury Ring** is Hampshire's largest Iron Age hill fort. Occupied from about 550 BC until the arrival of the Romans, the site has been meticulously excavated and the finds are now displayed at the Museum of the Iron Age in Andover. Visitors can wander round the site and, with the help of explanatory boards, reconstruct the once-thriving community with its clearly defined roads, shops, homes and places of worship.

trees, while the village itself is equally attractive with many thatched or timbered houses. The most notable building in Nether Wallop is **St Andrew's Church**, partly because of its Norman features and handsome West Tower of 1704, but also because of its striking medieval wall paintings, which provide an interesting contrast with Stanley Spencer's at Burghclere. Some 500 years old, these lay hidden for generations under layers of plaster and were only rediscovered in the 1950s. The most impressive of them shows St George slaying the dragon. Outside St Andrew's stands an item of great interest for collectors of churchyard oddities. It's a dark grey stone pyramid; 15feet high, with red stone flames rising from its tip. This daunting monument was erected at his own expense and in memory of himself by Francis Douce, 'Doctor of Physick', who died in 1760. Dr Douce also left an endowment to build a village school on condition that the parishioners would properly maintain the pyramid.

WEYHILL

3 miles W of Andover on the A342

In its day the October Weyhill Fair was an event of some importance. In Thomas Hardy's *Mayor of Casterbridge* it appears as the Weydon Priors Market where the future mayor sells his wife and child. Today a craft and design centre has been set up on the site where you can watch demonstrations and take tuition.

Just south of Weyhill, off the A303, the 22 acres of the **Hawk Conservancy Trust** is home to more than 150 birds of prey, including eagles, falcons, condors, kites and vultures. The highlights of a visit are the three flying displays every day, each with a different team of birds. Children can hold an owl, take a Raptor Safari Tractor ride, watch the runner duck racing, or just work off some energy in the adventure play area. For adults, there are bird-viewing hides, a butterfly garden and a colourful wildflower meadow, or they can fly a hawk or just explore the beautiful woodland grounds. The grounds here are also home to Shire horses, Sika deer, Hampshire Down sheep and red squirrels that have been given their own aerial runway.



Hawk Conservancy Trust, Weyhill

THRUXTON

5 miles W of Andover off the A303

This large village with many thatched cottages is well known for its **Motor Racing Circuit**, which is built on a World War II airfield. Its annual calendar of events takes in many aspects of the sport including Formula Three, Touring Cars, British Super Bikes, Trucks and Karts.

PENTON MEWSEY

3 miles NW of Andover off the (A342 or A343)

For those who enjoy deciphering the cryptic place-names of English villages, Penton Mewsey offers a satisfying challenge. The answer goes like this: Penton was a 'tun' (enclosure or farm) paying a 'pen' (penny) as annual rent. That's the Saxon part. Later, in the early 1200s, Robert de Meisy owned Penton so his surname provided the second part of the village's name.

The town of Andover has now expanded to Penton Mewsey's parish boundaries but the

village itself remains more rural than urban, and even has a field at its centre.

APPLESHAW

4 miles NW of Andover off the A342

The houses in the village of Appleshaw sit comfortably along both sides of its broad, single street. Many of them are thatched and a useful, century-old clock in the middle of the street, placed here to celebrate Queen Victoria's Jubilee, adds to the time-defying atmosphere. The former Vicarage, built in Georgian times, is as gracious as you would expect of that era, and the neo-Gothic architecture of the parish church, rebuilt in 1830, is in entire harmony with its earlier neighbours.

TANGLEY

5 miles NW of Andover (off the A342 or A343)

For the best views, approach Tangley from the east, along the country lane from Hurstbourne Tarrant. Its mostly Victorian church is notable for its rare font, one of only 38 in the whole country made of lead and the only one in Hampshire. Dating back to the early 1600s, it is decorated with Tudor roses, crowned thistles, and fleur-de-lys.

The old Roman road from Winchester to Cirencester, the **Icknield Way**, runs through the parish of Tangley. Most of this part of the county is designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the scenery is enchanting.

WINCHESTER

One of the country's most historic and beautiful cities, Winchester was adopted by King Alfred as the capital of his kingdom of Wessex, a realm that then included most of southern England. There had been a settlement here since the Iron Age and in Roman times, as Venta Belgarum, it became an important military base.

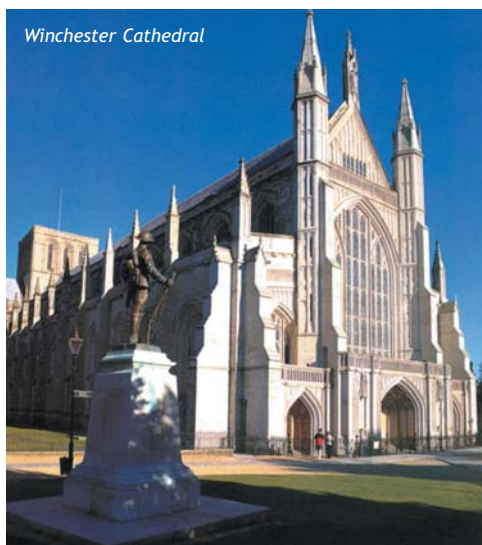
When the Imperial Legions returned to Rome, the town declined until it was refounded by King Alfred in the late 800s. Alfred's street plan still provides the basic outline of the city centre. In 2003, Hyde Abbey Garden was opened to commemorate King Alfred's last known resting place.

A Saxon cathedral had been built in the 7th century but the present magnificent **Cathedral**, easily the most imposing and interesting building in Hampshire, dates back to 1079. It's impossible in a few words to do justice to this glorious building and its countless treasures such as the famous Winchester Bible, a 12th century illuminated manuscript that took more than 15 years to complete using pure gold and lapis lazuli from Afghanistan. Winchester Cathedral boasts the longest nave in Europe, a dazzling 14th century masterpiece in the Perpendicular style, a wealth of fine wooden carvings, and gems within a gem such as the richly decorated Bishop Waynflete's Chantry of 1486. Sumptuous medieval monuments, like the effigy of William of Wykeham, founder of Winchester College, provide a striking contrast to the simple black stone floorslabs, which separately mark the graves of Izaak Walton and Jane Austen. One of the more unusual memorials is the statue of William Walker, a diver who spent six years, from 1906, working full-time under water as he laboriously removed the logs that had supported the cathedral for 800 years and replaced those rotting foundations with cement.

Within the beautiful Cathedral Close, popular with picnickers, are two other buildings of outstanding interest. No. 8,

College Street, a rather austere Georgian house with a first-floor bay window, is **Jane Austen's House** in which she spent the last six weeks of her life in 1817. The house is private but a slate plaque above the front door records her residence here. Two years after Jane Austen was buried in the Cathedral, the poet John Keats stayed in Winchester and wrote his timeless *Ode to Autumn* - 'seasons of mist and mellow fruitfulness'. To celebrate the bicentenary decade of Jane Austen's heyday a permanent exhibition at her final resting place opened in April 2011. The display reveals the author's life and times like never before. Right next-door stands **Winchester College**, the oldest school in England, founded in 1382 by Bishop William of Wykeham to provide education for seventy 'poor and needy scholars'. Substantial parts of the 14th century buildings still stand, including the beautiful Chapel. The Chapel is always open to visitors and there are guided tours around the other parts of the college from April to September. If you can time your visit during the school holidays, more of the college is available to view.

Another literary connection is with Anthony Trollope who attended Winchester College briefly and later transformed the city into the 'Barchester' of his novels. A true



Winchester Cathedral



Wolvesey Castle, Winchester

incident at a Winchester almshouse provided the basis for his novel, *The Warden*.

The city's other attractions are so numerous one can only mention a few of the most important. **The Great Hall**, off the High Street, is the only surviving part of the medieval castle rebuilt by Henry III between 1222 and 1236. Nikolaus Pevsner considered it 'the finest medieval hall in England after Westminster Hall'. On one wall hangs the great multi-coloured Round Table traditionally associated with King Arthur but actually made in Tudor times - the painted figure at the top closely resembles Henry VIII. Located within the castle grounds are no fewer than six military museums, including the Gurkha Museum, HorsePower, The Museum of the King's Royal Hussars whose displays include an exhibit on the famous Charge of the Light Brigade, and the Royal Green Jackets Museum, which contains a superb diorama of the Battle of Waterloo.

Other buildings of interest include the early-14th century **Pilgrim Hall**, part of the Pilgrim School, and originally used as lodgings for pilgrims to the shrine of St Swithun; the **Westgate Museum**, occupying one of the city's medieval gateways, which also served as a debtors' prison for 150 years; and **Wolvesey Castle** (English Heritage), the residence of the Bishops of Winchester since AD 963. The present palace is a gracious, classical building erected in the 1680s, flanked by the imposing ruins of its 14th century predecessor, which was one of the

grandest buildings in medieval England. It was here, in 1554, that Queen Mary first met Philip of Spain and where the wedding banquet was held the next day. Also well worth a visit is the 15th century **Hospital of St Cross**, England's oldest almshouse once described by Simon Jenkins as 'a Norman cathedral in miniature'. Founded in 1132 by Henri du Blois, grandson of William the Conqueror, it was extended in 1446 by Cardinal Beaufort, son of John of Gaunt. It still has places for 25 Brothers and maintains its

long tradition of hospitality by dispensing the traditional Wayfarer's Dole to any traveller who requests it. To the east of the city lies a very modern attraction, **INTECH**, which explores the technologies that shape our lives through hands-on interactive displays. The Astrium Planetarium is a digital state-of-the-art theatre that stages a variety of shows on its dome screen.

AROUND WINCHESTER

ITCHEN ABBAS

4 miles NE of Winchester on the B3047

One of the finest stately homes in England, **Avington Park** dates back to the 11th century but the grand State Rooms were added in 1670 and include a Great Saloon with a magnificent gold plasterwork ceiling, painted wall panels depicting the four seasons, along with many remarkable paintings. Avington Park is open on Sunday and Bank Holiday afternoons during the summer, and is available for private functions at other times.

TWYFORD

3 miles S of Winchester, on the B3335

Hampshire churchyards are celebrated for their ancient yew trees, but the one at Twyford is truly exceptional. A visitor in 1819 described the clipped tree as resembling 'the

top of a considerable green hillock, elevated on a stump'. The grand old yew is still in apparently good health and provides a dark green foil to the trim Victorian church of striped brick and flint, which was designed by Alfred Waterhouse, architect of the Natural History Museum in London.

Three well-known historical figures have strong associations with the village. Benjamin Franklin wrote much of his autobiography while staying at Twyford House; Alexander Pope attended school here until he was expelled for writing a lampoon on the Master; and it was at the old Brambridge House that Mrs Fitzherbert was secretly married to the Prince Regent, later George IV, in 1785.

Twyford **Waterworks Museum**, housed in the town waterworks that opened in 1898, explains the evolution of water supply during the 20th century (the museum is only open on selected open days throughout the year).

COLDEN COMMON

5 miles S of Winchester on the B3354

Just to the east of Colden Common, **Marwell Zoological Park** is home to more than 200 species of animals, from meercats and red pandas to snow leopards and rhinos. Set in a 100-acre park, Marwell boasts the largest collection of hoofed animals in the UK, nine species of cat and many endangered species ranging from Amur Tigers, the largest in the world, to an Amur Leopard, the rarest cat in the world. The Park is constantly improving the animal's terrain, and in April 2011 Marwell's three cheetahs moved to their home complete with an undercover viewing platform. Adventure playgrounds, a restaurant, gift shops and special events all combine to make the park a grand day out for all the family.

AMPFIELD

8 miles SW of Winchester on the A3090

Ampfield was once a busy pottery centre and bricks made from local clay were used to build the Church of St Mark in the 1830s. One of the vicars here was the father of the Revd W

Awdry, creator of Thomas the Tank Engine. But the main attraction at Ampfield is the Sir **Harold Hillier Gardens & Arboretum**, one of the most important modern plant collections in the world. Sir Harold began his unique collection in 1953 and the 180-acre site is now home to the greatest assembly of hardy trees and shrubs in the world. The 42,000 plants from temperate regions all around the world include 11 National Plant Collections, more than 250 Champion Trees and the largest Winter Garden in Europe. Amenities within the grounds include a stylish licensed restaurant, gift shop and interpretation area explaining the role and history of the gardens.

ROMSEY

11 miles SW of Winchester (on the A27/A3090

Music in stone', and 'the second finest Norman building in England' are just two responses to **Romsey Abbey**, a majestic building containing some of the best 12th and 13th century architecture to have survived. Built between 1120 and 1230, the Abbey is remarkably complete. Unlike so many monastic buildings that were destroyed or fell into ruin after the Dissolution, the abbey was fortunate in being bought by the town in 1544 for £100 - the bill of sale, signed and sealed by Henry VIII, is displayed in the south

34 NUMBER ATE THE CAFÉ

Romsey

Delicious coffee and cakes and an affordable selection of breakfasts, lunch time dishes in a comfortable environment with helpful staff.

See entry on page 79



35 THE SHOE INN

Plaitford

Family run freehouse offering homemade food, well kept ales, various entertainment and 5 high quality letting rooms.

See entry on page 79



choir aisle. Subsequent generations of townspeople have carefully maintained their bargain purchase. The abbey's most spectacular feature is the soaring nave, which rises more than 70feet and extends for more than 76feet. Amongst the abbey's many treasures is the 16th century **Romsey Rood**, which shows Christ on the cross with the hand of God descending from the clouds.

Just across from the Abbey, in Church Court, stands the town's oldest dwelling, **King John's House**, built around 1240 for a merchant. It has served as a royal residence but not, curiously, for King John who died some 14 years before it was built. He may though have had a hunting lodge on the site. The house is now an entertaining Heritage Centre, which also incorporates the Moody Museum and Tudor Cottage. In King John's House, visitors can see medieval graffiti and the remains of a rare bone floor, as well as many other features. Tudor Cottage is a timber-framed building with a delightful tearoom, while the Moody Museum features life in Victorian and Edwardian Romsey with a recreated shop and parlour among other displays.

Romsey Signal Box is a preserved vintage signal box in working order, complete with signals, track and other artefacts.

Romsey's most famous son is undoubtedly the flamboyant politician Lord Palmerston, three times Prime Minister during the 1850s and 1860s. Palmerston lived at Broadlands, just south of the town, and is commemorated by a bronze statue in the town's small triangular Market Place.

Broadlands is a gracious Palladian mansion that was built by Lord Palmerston's father in the mid-1700s. The architect was Henry Holland and the ubiquitous 'Capability Brown' modeled the landscape. The 2nd Viscount Palmerston acquired the important collections of furniture, porcelain and sculpture. The house passed to the Mountbatten family and it was Lord Louis



Broadlands, Romsey

Mountbatten who first opened Broadlands to the public shortly before he was killed in 1979. The present owner, Lord Romsey, has established the Mountbatten Exhibition in tribute to his grandfather's remarkable career as naval commander, diplomat, and last Viceroy of India. An audio-visual film provides an overall picture of the Earl's life and exhibits include his dazzling uniforms, the numerous decorations he was awarded, and an astonishing collection of the trophies, mementoes and gifts he received in his many rôles. Following a major refurbishment programme, Broadlands was reopened to the public in June 2011.

EAST WELLOW

14 miles SW of Winchester off the A27

The **Church of St Margaret** is the burial place of Florence Nightingale, who lies beneath the family monument, her final resting place bearing the simple inscription: *FN 1820-1910*. The church itself has several interesting features, including 13th century wall paintings and Jacobean panelling.

Close to the village of East Wellow is **Headlands Farm Fishery**, where there are two lakes available for fishing for carp, tench, perch, roach, pike and trout.

If you are in the vicinity of East Wellow, be sure to call in at **Carlo's**. This family business established in 1894, which started out selling homemade ice cream from a pony cart, has blossomed into a delightful tearoom

providing an authentic Italian experience with ice cream just like *Mama* used to make.

MOTTISFONT

10 miles W of Winchester (off the A3057

Mottisfont's little Church of St Andrew boasts a wealth of 15th century stained glass, including a superb Crucifixion, and should not be overlooked on a visit to **Mottisfont Abbey and Gardens** (National Trust). Built as an Augustinian priory in the 12th century, the abbey was converted into a country mansion after the Dissolution and was further modified in the 1700s. Some parts of the original priory have survived, amongst them the monks' cellarium - an undercroft with vast pillars - but the main attraction inside is the drawing room decorated with a Gothic trompe l'oeil fantasy by Rex Whistler. He was also commissioned to design the furniture but World War II intervened and he was killed in action. The superb grounds contain the National Collection of old-fashioned roses, established in 1972, a lovely pollarded lime walk designed by Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe, and some superb trees, including what is thought to be the largest plane tree in England.



Mottisfont Abbey Gardens

CRAWLEY

5 miles NW of Winchester off the B3049

Crawley is a possibly unique example of an early-20th century model village. The estate was bought in 1900 by the Philippi family who then enthusiastically set about adding to the village's store of genuine traditional cottages a number of faithful fakes built in the same style. (They also provided their tenants with a state-of-the-art bathhouse and a roller skating rink). Sensitive to tradition and history, they did nothing to blemish the partly Norman church, leaving its unusual interior intact. Instead of stone pillars, **St Mary's Church** has mighty wooden columns supporting its roof, still effective more than 500 years after they were first hoisted into place.

BASINGSTOKE

Basingstoke's tourist information people never tire of telling visitors that their busy, prosperous town with its soaring multi-storey buildings boasts many parks and open spaces, ranging from the 16-hectare **War Memorial Park**, an 18th century park complete with bandstand, aviary and sports facilities, to **Southview Cemetery**, a site with a fascinating history. Some 800 years ago, during the reign of King John, England languished under an interdict pronounced by the Pope. Throughout the six years from 1208 to 1214, any baby christened, or dead person buried, lacked the official blessing of Mother Church. At Basingstoke during those years, the deceased were interred in a graveyard known as the Liten and when the interdict was finally lifted, the ground was consecrated

36 THE FOX

Newfound, nr
Basingstoke

A traditional pub on the outskirts of Basingstoke, close to the Milestone Museum, offering homemade food.

See entry on page 80



and a chapel built, the **Chapel of the Holy Ghost**. Today, it's a striking ruin surrounded by a well-managed site, which provides a peaceful refuge from the bustling town.

As befits such a thriving place, Basingstoke offers visitors a wide choice of attractions: theatre, cinema, a vast Leisure Park and **Festival Square**, whose 1 million square feet of shopping and leisure contains an array of shops, bars, restaurants and cafés, and a 10-screen cinema.

Housed in the old Town Hall of 1832, is the excellent **Willis Museum** (free), which charts the town's history with lively displays featuring characters such as 'Fred', a Roman skeleton, and 'Pickaxe', a 19th century farm worker 'forced to scrape a living from the streets of Basingstoke as a scavenger'. The museum is named after George Willis, a local clockmaker and former mayor of Basingstoke who established the collection in 1931. Naturally, locally made grandfather clocks feature prominently in the displays.

A more modern attraction is **Milestones**, a living history museum of the 19th and early-20th centuries. The vast hi-tech structure houses a network of streets complete with reconstructed shops, a working pub, factories, cobbled streets and staff in period costume. You can call into the gramophone shop to listen to the 'latest' hits on 78s, or drop into Abrahams the Confectioners for a 2oz bag of boiled sweets. Other highlights include the Tasker and Thorneycroft collections of agricultural and commercial vehicles, and the fascinating AA collection. The complex also contains a café and gift shop. At the **Viables Craft Centre** visitors can watch craftspeople at work operating out of converted farm buildings. A model railway runs around the semi-rural site and offers

public rides aboard diesel or steam locomotives on certain days.

On the outskirts of town, **Basing House** was once one of the grandest residences in the realm. Built during the reign of Henry VIII, it rivaled even the king's extravagant mansions. Less than a hundred years later, during the Civil War, Cromwell's troops besieged the house for an incredible three years. When Basing House was finally captured the victorious New Army put it to the torch, but some mightily impressive ruins still stand, along with a magnificent 16th century Grange Barn. A visitor centre and small museum give an interesting insight into the fascinating history of Basing House; audio tours are also available. The formal walled garden is a place for relaxation and there is a tearoom for refreshment.

AROUND BASINGSTOKE

SHERBORNE ST JOHN

2 miles N of Basingstoke off the A340

A mile or so north of the village, **The Vyne** (National Trust) is a tremendously impressive mansion that was built in the early 1500s for Lord Sandys, Lord Chamberlain to Henry VIII. Set within a thousand acres of beautiful gardens and parkland, the house enjoys an idyllic setting with lawns sweeping down to a shimmering lake. A classical portico was added to the house in 1654, the first of its kind in England. The Vyne's treasures include a fascinating Tudor chapel with Renaissance glass, a Palladian staircase, some remarkable statuary and a wealth of old linenfold oak panelling and fine furniture.

SILCHESTER

7 miles N of Basingstoke off the A340

Excavation of the town that the Romans called **Calleva Atrebatum** took place at the turn of the 19th/20th centuries and revealed some remarkable treasures, most of which are now on display at Reading Museum. The dig also revealed the most complete plan of

37 BASING HOUSE

Basing, nr Basingstoke

Once the largest private residence in the country, the ruins of Basing House in its delightful setting, is a superb attraction.

See entry on page 81





North Gate, Silchester

any Roman town in the country but, rather oddly, the site was 're-buried' and now only around 1.5 miles of the city wall is visible - the best-preserved Roman town wall in Britain. Also impressive is the recently restored 1st century amphitheatre that lies just beyond the town walls.

Tucked in next to part of the Roman wall is the pretty **Church of St Mary** that dates from the 1100s. It boasts a superb 16th century screen with a frieze of angels and some unusual bench-ends of 1909 executed in Art Nouveau style.

PAMBER HEATH

7 miles N of Basingstoke off the A340

There are three 'Pambers' set in the countryside along the A340. At Pamber End stand the picturesque ruins of a once-magnificent 12th/13th century **Priory Church**, idyllically sited in sylvan surroundings. Set apart from the village, they invite repose and meditation. Pamber Green, as you might expect, is a leafy enclave; but for anyone in search of a good country pub, the Pamber to make for is Pamber Heath. The Pelican in Pamber Heath is something else. There are hundreds of pots hanging from the ceiling beams, in every shape and colour you can imagine, some pewter and some ceramic.

STRATFIELD SAYE

7 miles NE of Basingstoke off the A33

About 4 miles west of Eversley, **Stratfield**

Saye House was just one of many rewards a grateful nation showered on the Duke of Wellington after his decisive defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo. The duke himself doesn't seem to have been reciprocally grateful: only lack of funds frustrated his plans to demolish the gracious 17th century house and replace it with an even more impressive mansion, which he intended to call Waterloo Palace. Quite modest in scale, Stratfield Saye fascinates visitors with its collection of the duke's own furniture and personal

items such as his spectacles, handkerchiefs and carpet slippers. A complete room is devoted to his favourite charger, Copenhagen, who carried him on the day of the battle of Waterloo and is buried in the grounds here. More questionable exhibits are the priceless books in the library, many of them looted from Napoleon's own bibliotheque. A good number of the fine Spanish and Portuguese paintings on display share an equally dubious provenance, 'relieved' during the duke's campaign in those countries as 'spoils of war'. That was accepted military practice at the time and, these quibbles apart, Stratfield Saye House is certainly one of the county's 'must-see' attractions.

To the west of the estate is the **Wellington Country Park** where among the 350 acres of beautiful parkland there are fine walks and numerous attractions, including adventure playgrounds, an animal farm, miniature railway and crazy golf.

HARTLEY WINTNEY

8 miles NE of Basingstoke on the A30

Riding through Hartley Wintney in 1821, William Cobbett, the author of *Rural Rides* and a conservationist long before anyone had thought of such a creature, was delighted to see young oaks being planted on the large village green. They were the gift of Hartley Wintney's lady of the manor, Lady Mildmay, and were originally intended to provide timber

for shipbuilding. Fortunately, by the time they matured they were no longer needed for that purpose and today the **Mildmay Oaks** provide the village centre with a uniquely sylvan setting of majestic oak trees.

While you are in Hartley Wintney a visit to the old **Church of St Mary**, on Church Lane off the A323, is well worthwhile. Parts of the building date back to medieval times, but the fascination of this church lies in the fact that, after being completely renovated in 1834, it has remained almost totally unaltered ever since. High-sided box pews line the main aisle, there are elegant galleries for choir and congregation spanning the nave and both transepts, and colourful funeral hatchments add to St Mary's time-warp atmosphere.

A mile or so west of Hartley Wintney stands West Green House. Owned by the National Trust, the house is surrounded by lovely gardens featuring a dazzling variety of trees, plants and shrubs. The gardens are open for viewing from mid-April until mid-September on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday.

EVERSLEY

11 miles NE of Basingstoke on the A327

Charles Kingsley, author of such immensely popular Victorian novels as *The Water Babies* and *Westward Ho!* was Rector of Eversley for 33 years from 1842 until his death in 1875 and is buried in the churchyard here. Some large half-timbered labourers' cottages were built as a memorial to him and the gates of the village school, erected in 1951 for the Festival of Britain, include a figure of a boy chimney sweep, the main character in *The Water Babies*. Kingsley was an attractive personality with a burning passion for social justice, but modern readers don't seem to share the Victorian enthusiasm for his works. It's a sad fate for a prolific man of letters,

although perhaps not quite so dispiriting as that met by one of Kingsley's predecessors as preacher at Eversley. *He* was hanged as a highwayman.

ODIHAM

7 miles E of Basingstoke on the A327

Odiham Castle, located by the canal near North Warnborough to the west of the town, must have a very good claim to being one of the least picturesque ruins in the country. It looks like something rescued from a giant dentist's tray, with gaping window holes and jagged, crumbling towers. Back in 1215, though, Odiham Castle was a state-of-the-art royal residence. Great pomp and circumstance attended King John's stay at the castle, then just seven years old, the night before he set off to an important meeting. The following day, in a meadow beside the River Thames called Runnymede, John reluctantly ascribed his name to a bill of rights. That document, known as Magna Carta, proved to be the embryo of democracy in western Europe.

Odiham itself is one of the most attractive villages in the county, with a handsome High Street and a 15th century church, **All Saints Parish Church**, the largest in Hampshire, in which collectors of curiosities will be pleased to find a rather rare item, a hudd. A portable wooden frame covered with cloth, the hudd provided Odiham's rector with graveside shelter when he was conducting burials in



Pest House, Odiham

inclement weather. In a corner of the graveyard stands the **Pest House**, built around 1625 as an isolation ward for patients with infectious diseases. From 1780 until 1950, it served as an almshouse and is now open to visitors on most weekends.

STEVENTON

6 miles SW of Basingstoke,
off the B3400

At Steventon Rectory on 16th December 1775, Cassandra Austen presented her husband, George, with their seventh child, Jane. George was the rector of Steventon and Jane was to spend the first 25 years of her short life in the village. There is now very little evidence of her time here. The rectory was later demolished but there are memorials to the Austen family in the church where George Austen served for 44 years. It was at Steventon that Jane wrote *Pride and Prejudice*, *Sense and Sensibility* and *Northanger Abbey*. When the Revd George retired in 1800, the family moved to Bath. After her father's death, five years later, Jane and her mother took the house in Chawton that is now the Jane Austen Museum.

OVERTON

8 miles W of Basingstoke on the B3400

A large village near the source of the River Test, Overton has a broad main street lined with handsome houses. During the stagecoach era, it was an important staging post on the London to Winchester route and the annual sheep fair was one of the largest in the county selling at its peak up to 150,000

38 BARLEY MOW

Oakley

Charming pub offering exceptional food including a hearty Sunday roast and a well stocked bar with 4 real ales.

See entry on page 81



lambs and sheep. The fair flourished for centuries, only coming to an end in the early 1930s. To commemorate the new Millennium, in July 2000 Overton staged its own version of the Sheep Fair, complete with a flock of sheep paraded down the main street. Subsequent fairs have been held every four years since, each with a different historic theme. Stalls line the streets, musicians and storytellers entertain and the weekend is rounded off with a grand parade.

To the north of Overton is **Watership Down**, made famous by Richard Adams' book of the same name. The down spreads across a high ridge from which there are superb downland views. The down is now a nature reserve providing sanctuary for a variety of birds and mammals, including, of course, rabbits. The down lies on the long-distance footpath, the Wayfarer's Walk, which runs from Inkpen Beacon, just across the border in Berkshire, to Emsworth on the Hampshire coast.

KINGSCLERE

8 miles NW of Basingstoke on the A339

Collectors of curiosities might like to make a short excursion to the peaceful village of Kingsclere where the weather vane on top of the parish church has baffled many visitors. With its six outstretched legs and squat body, the figure on the vane has been compared to a skateboarding terrapin. Local historians, however, assert that it actually represents a

bed bug and were placed here by the command of King John. The king had been hunting in the area when a thick fog descended and he was forced to spend the night at the Crown Hotel in Kingsclere. Apparently, he slept badly, his slumber continually disturbed by the attentions of a bed bug. The next morning, he ordered that the townspeople should forever be reminded of his restless night in Kingsclere by erecting this curious memorial to his tormentor.



ALDERSHOT

Back in 1854, Aldershot was a village of some 800 inhabitants. Then the Army decided to build a major camp here and the population has grown steadily ever since to its present tally of around 60,000. The story of how Aldershot became the home of the British Army is vividly recounted at the **Aldershot Military Museum**, which stands in the middle of the camp and is a must for anyone with an interest in military history. Housed in the last two surviving Victorian barrack blocks, its tiny appearance from the outside belies the wealth of fascinating displays contained inside. For example, there's a detailed cutaway model of a cavalry barracks showing how the soldiers' rooms were placed above the stables, an economic form of central heating described as 'warm, but aromatic'. It was soldiers at Aldershot who became the first military aviators in Britain, using Farnborough Common for their flying and building their aircraft sheds where the Royal

Aircraft Establishment stands today. Another military museum located here is the **Army Physical Training Corps Museum** where the Corps history is recounted with the help of numerous exhibits, pictorial records - and some Victorian gymnastic equipment.

In the town's Manor Park, the **Heroes Shrine** commemorates the dead of World War I, while a nearby walled and sunken garden, shaded by deodar trees, honours the fallen of World War II. An imposing bronze statue crowning Round Hill just outside the town represents another celebrated military figure, the Duke of Wellington. The statue originally stood atop the Triumphal Arch at Hyde Park Corner in London but was moved to Aldershot in 1885.

AROUND ALDERSHOT

FARNBOROUGH

3 miles N of Aldershot on the A331

The town is best known for the **Farnborough Air Show**, which is held every other year. The town's unique aviation heritage is explored at the **Farnborough Air Sciences Museum**, which holds an extensive collection of exhibits, records and artefacts. The museum is open every Saturday and Sunday.

Less well known is **St Michael's Abbey**, now a Benedictine foundation but with a curious history. After the fall of Napoleon III,

39 ALDERSHOT MILITARY MUSEUM

Aldershot

The museum covers the history of Aldershot, both military and civil, and includes displays of vehicles, objects and archives.

See entry on page 82



his wife the Empress Eugenie came to live at a large house called Farnborough Hill where she was later joined by her husband and her son, the Prince Imperial. Napoleon died at Chislehurst after an operation to remove bladder stones; her son was killed in the Zulu War. The heartbroken Empress commissioned the building of an ornate mausoleum for their tombs as part of a monastery in the flamboyant French style. The first monks arrived in 1895 from Solesmes Abbey, France, and they still continue their regime of liturgy, study and manual work. The abbey is open to the public and has a small farm and apiary that supplies not only the monks but also the abbey shop. Guided tours are available on Saturday and Bank Holiday afternoons.

ALTON

Surrounded by some of Hampshire's loveliest countryside, Alton is an appealing market town with a history stretching back far beyond Roman times (the name actually means old town). The town's market, held on Tuesdays, is more than a thousand years old and at the time of the *Domesday Book* was the most valuable the survey recorded anywhere in the country. Alton boasts a large number of old coaching inns, and the impressive, partly Norman **St Lawrence's Church**, which was the setting for a dramatic episode during the Civil War. In 1643, a large force of Roundheads drove some eighty Royalists into the church where 60 of them were killed. The Royalist commander, Colonel Boles, made a last stand from the splendid Jacobean pulpit, firing repeatedly at his attackers before succumbing to their bullets. The church door and several of the Norman pillars are still pockmarked with holes from bullets fired off during this close-combat conflict. More cheerful are the comical carvings on these pillars of animals and birds, amongst them a wolf gnawing a bone and two donkeys kicking their heels in the air.

Nearby are the old cemetery and the well-tended **Grave of Fanny Adams**. The expression 'Sweet Fanny Adams' arose from the revolting murder in 1867 of an 8-year-old

girl in the town who was hacked into pieces by her assassin. With macabre humour, sailors used the phrase 'Sweet Fanny Adams' to describe the recently issued tinned mutton for which they had a certain mistrust. Over the years, the saying became accepted as a contemptuous description for anything considered valueless. A poor memorial for an innocent girl.

There's a different sort of monument in Amery Street, a narrow lane leading off the market place. On a small brick house is a plaque commemorating the Elizabethan poet Edmund Spenser who came to Alton around 1590 to enjoy its 'sweet delicate air'.

Well worth a visit while you are in Alton is the **Allen Gallery** in Church Street (free), home to an outstanding collection of English, Continental and Far Eastern pottery, porcelain and tiles. Housed in a group of attractive 16th and 18th century buildings the gallery's other attractions include the unique Elizabethan Tichborne Spoons, delightful watercolours and oil paintings by local artist William Herbert Allen, a walled garden and a comfortable coffee lounge.

Fanny Adams Grave, Alton



Across the road, the **Curtis Museum** (free) concentrates on exploring 100 million years of local history with displays devoted to the 'shocking tale of Sweet Fanny Adams', other local celebrities such as Jane Austen and Lord Baden-Powell, and a colourful Gallery of Childhood with exhibits thoughtfully displayed in miniature cases at an ideal height for children.

AROUND ALTON

CHAWTON

2 miles S of Alton off the A31

From the outside, the home in which Jane Austen spent the last eight years of her life, **Chawton House**, and where she wrote three of her most popular novels (*Mansfield Park*, *Emma* and *Persuasion*), is a rather austere-looking 17th century building. Once you step inside, however, the mementoes on show are fascinating. In the parlour is the small round table where she wrote, in her bedroom the patchwork quilt she made with her mother and sister still lies on the bed and whilst in the old bake house is her donkey cart. Another room is dedicated to her brothers, Frank and Charles, who both had distinguished careers in the Royal Navy. Outside, there's a pretty garden stocked with many old varieties of flowers and herbs. Chawton village itself is a delightful spot with old cottages and houses leading up to the village green outside Jane's house.

SELBORNE

4 miles SE of Alton on the B3006

Like the nearby village of Chawton, Selborne also produced a great literary figure. The Wakes was the home of Gilbert White, a humble curate of the parish from 1784 until his death in 1793. He spent his spare hours meticulously recording observations on the weather, wildlife and geology of the area. Astonishingly, a perceptive publisher to whom Gilbert submitted his notes recognised the appeal of his humdrum, day-to-day accounts of life in what was then a remote

corner of England. *The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne* was first published in 1788, has never been out of print, and still provides what is perhaps the most entertaining and direct access to late-18th century life, seen through the eyes of an intelligent, sceptical mind.

Visitors to **Gilbert White's House & Gardens** can see the original manuscript of his book along with other personal belongings, and stroll around the peaceful garden with its unusual old plant varieties.

The house also contains the **Oates Collection**, which celebrates Francis Oates, the Victorian explorer, and his nephew Captain Lawrence 'Titus' Oates who was with Captain Scott on his doomed expedition to the South Pole. Titus' last words - 'I am just going outside. I may be some time' - are known around the world, as is Scott's diary entry describing Oates' selfless deed as 'the act of a very gallant gentleman'. There's an excellent book and gift shop, and a tearoom specialising in 18th century fare, and a Field Study Centre housed in the 17th century barn.

Gilbert White is buried in the graveyard of the pretty **Church of St Mary**, his final resting place marked by a stone bearing the austere inscription *GW 26th June 1793*. A fine stained glass window depicts St Francis preaching to the birds described in Gilbert's book. Outside in the churchyard is the stump of a yew tree that was some 1400 years old when it succumbed to the great storm of January 1990.

Selborne Pottery was established by Robert Goldsmith in 1985. Each piece of pottery made here is hand-thrown and turned, and the distinctive pots are not only

40 GILBERT WHITE'S HOUSE AND THE OATES MUSEUM

Selborne

The house contains a display of possessions of the author and naturalist, the Reverend Gilbert White. The Oates Museum is dedicated to the Captain Lawrence Oates, who accompanied Scott to the Antarctic.

See entry on page 82



functional but also decorative.

From Selborne village centre there are several walks, one of which leads to the 'Zig Zag' path constructed by Gilbert and his brother in 1753. It winds its way up to 'Hanger' (a wood on a steep hillside) that overlooks the village. The land at the summit is part of an area of meadow, woodland and common that is owned by the National Trust - the spot provides panoramic views across the South Downs.

NEW ALRESFORD

10 miles SW of Alton off the A31

Pronounced *Allsford*, 'New' Alresford was created around 1200 by a Bishop of Winchester, Geoffrey de Lucy, as part of his grand plan to build a waterway from Winchester to Southampton. Where the River Arle flows into the Itchen, he constructed a huge reservoir covering 200 acres, its waters controlled to keep the Itchen navigable at all seasons. The Bishop's reservoir is now reduced to some 60 acres but it's still home to countless wildfowl and many otters. Known today as **Old Alresford Pond**, it's one of the most charming features of this dignified Georgian town. Alresford can also boast one of the county's most beautiful streets, historic Broad Street, lined with elegant, colour-washed Georgian houses interspersed with specialist shops and inviting hosteleries.

Alresford's most famous son was Admiral Lord Rodney, a contemporary of Lord Nelson, who built the grand Manor House (private) near the parish church, but the town can also boast two famous daughters. One was Mary



Watercress Line, New Alresford

Sumner, wife of the Rector of Alresford, who founded the Mother's Union here in 1876. The other was Mary Russell Mitford, author of the fascinating collection of sketches of 18th century life, *Our Village*, published in five volumes between 1824-1832. Mary's prolific literary output was partly spurred on by the need to repay the debts of her spendthrift father. Dr Mitford managed to dissipate his own inherited fortune of many thousands of pounds; his wife's lavish dowry, which almost doubled that income, disappeared equally quickly, and when Mary at the age of ten won the huge sum of £20,000 in a lottery, the good doctor squandered that as well. Mary's classic book tells the story.

One of Alresford's attractions that should not be missed is the Mid Hants Railway **Watercress Line**, Hampshire's only preserved steam railway and so named because it was once used to transport watercress from the beds around Alresford to London and beyond. The line runs through 10 miles of beautiful countryside to Alton where it links up with main line services to London. Vintage steam locomotives make the 35-minute journey on a regular basis January to October, and there are dining trains as well as frequent special events throughout the year. Footplate rides and train-driving lessons are available.

HINTON AMPNER

11 miles SW of Alton on the A272

The River Itchen, renowned for its trout and watercress beds, rises to the west of the

41 TIFFIN TRADITIONAL TEAROOMS

Alresford

Fantastic tearooms offering an abundance of homecooking, old fashioned hospitality and a great location.

See entry on page 83





Tichborne Claimant. In 1871 a certain Arthur Orton, son of a Wapping butcher, returned from Wagga Wagga, Australia, claiming to be the heir to the estate. Although he bore no resemblance to the rightful heir who had disappeared while sailing round the world, Arthur was recognised by the widow as her son and supported in his claim. She, apparently, detested her late husband's family. Arthur's claim was rejected in a trial that lasted 100 days and he

village to begin its 25-mile journey to the sea at Southampton; the **Itchen Way** footpath follows the river throughout its course. To the south of the village are **Hinton Ampner Gardens** (National Trust). They were created by Ralph Dutton, 8th and last Lord Sherborne, who inherited the house in 1936 and then planned a superb garden that combines formal and informal planting. The design produces some delightful walks with some unexpected vistas. The house itself, which contains a stunning collection of furniture and paintings, is open Saturday to Thursday from mid-February until November.

TICHBORNE

12 miles SW of Alton off the A31

Two intriguing stories are associated with this lovely village of thatched and half-timbered cottages. The legend of the **Tichborne Dole** dates from the reign of Henry I. At that time the owner of Tichborne Park was the dastardly Sir Roger Tichborne. As his crippled wife, Mabella, lay dying her last wish was to provide food for the poor. Sir Roger agreed - but only from an area she could crawl around. The brave woman managed to encircle an area of more than 20 acres of arable land, carrying a flaming torch as she did so. Ever since then the Park's owners have provided bags of flour every year to the villages of Tichborne and Cheriton. The field is still known as 'The Crawls'.

Equally notorious is the episode of the

was put on trial for perjury. After a further 188 days he was found guilty and sentenced to 14 years in prison.

PETERSFIELD

An appealing market town, Petersfield is dominated by the bulk of **Butser Hill**, 900feet high and the highest point of the South Downs offering grand panoramic views over the town and even, on a clear day, to the spire of Salisbury Cathedral, some 40 miles distant. In the 1660s, Samuel Pepys noted his stay in Petersfield, at a hotel in which Charles II had slept before him. Another king is commemorated in the town square where William III sits on horseback, incongruously dressed in Roman costume. Unusually, the statue is made of lead.

Most of the elegant buildings around the square are Georgian, but the **Church of St Peter** is much older, dating back to Norman times and with a fine north aisle to prove it. Just off the Square, the **Flora Twort Gallery**

42 CLOISTERS CAFÉ AND WINE BAR

Petersfield

Freshly Baked Pastries -
Home-made Cakes -
Cream Teas.
Freshly Prepared
Sandwiches, Salads and
Lunches

See entry on page 83



was once the home and studio of the accomplished artist of that name who moved to Petersfield at the end of World War I. Her delightful paintings and drawings capture life in the town over some 40 years - 'reminders of some of the things we have lost' as she put it shortly before her death at the age of 91 in 1985. The ground floor of the gallery is dedicated to a collection of historic costumes. From the gallery, a short walk along Sheep Street, (which has some striking timber-framed 16th century houses and Georgian cottages), brings you to **The Spain**, a pleasant green surrounded by some of the town's oldest houses. It apparently acquired its rather unusual name because dealers in Spanish wool used to hold markets there.

Other attractions include the Petersfield Museum, housed in the Victorian Courthouse and the **Physic Garden** behind 16 High Street. Set in an ancient walled plot, the garden has been planted in a style that would have been familiar to the distinguished 17th century botanist John Goodayer, a native of Petersfield.

Petersfield is a fine area for walking and there are several of varying length, including town trails, Hangers Way and the Serpent Trail.

Petersfield Heath is an extensive recreational area with a pond for fishing and boating in summer months. In October, the heath is the setting for the annual Taro Fair. Also within the heath is an important group of Bronze Age barrows. There are more than 20

of them scattered between the bracken and pine trees, making this the largest Bronze Age burial ground in the south of England.

AROUND PETERSFIELD

STEEP

1 mile N of Petersfield off the A3

Appropriately, the village is reached by way of a steep hill. Steep is famous as the home of the writer and nature poet Edward Thomas who moved here with his family in 1907. It was while living at 2 Yew Tree Cottages that he wrote most of his poems. In 1909 he and his wife Helen moved to the Red House (private) where his daughter Myfanwy was born in 1913. Many years later, in 1985, she unveiled a plaque on the house. Her former home featured in two of her father's poems, *The New House* and *Wind and Mist*. Thomas was killed in action in World War I. His death is commemorated by two engraved lancet windows installed in 1978 in All Saints Church, and by a memorial stone on Shoulder of Mutton Hill above the village. It was in Steep in 1898 that the educational pioneer John Badley established Bedales, the first boarding school for both sexes in the country. His 'preposterous experiment' proved highly successful. The school has its own art gallery and a theatre, both of which stage lively programmes of events and exhibitions open to the public.

LIPHOOK

12 miles NE of Petersfield off the A3

Just south of Liphook, the **Hollycombe Steam Collection** boasts the largest gathering of working steam machines in Britain. Visitors can enjoy original 'white knuckle' rides in the Edwardian Steam Fairground, which contains Mr Field's Steam Circus - the world's oldest working mechanical ride - or ride behind a steam locomotive as it travels high on the hill, providing marvellous views



Petersfield Physic Garden

over the Sussex Weald. Elsewhere, steam is used to power an astonishing variety of machines, amongst them a sawmill, steam road engines and farm machinery. In strong contrast to all this activity are the peaceful woodland gardens, Grade 2* listed, which date back to the early 1800s. For opening times of this volunteer-run attraction call 01428 724900.

To the west of Liphook, Bohunt Manor Gardens are owned by the Worldwide Fund for Nature, which has made the grounds a refuge for a collection of ornamental waterfowl. There's a pleasant lakeside walk, herbaceous borders and many unusual trees and shrubs.

UPPARK

4 miles SE of Petersfield on the B2146

Just over the county border in West Sussex, **Uppark** (National Trust) is a handsome Wren-style mansion built around 1690 and most notable for its interior, which contains a wealth of paintings, textiles, ceramics and a famous doll's house. Uppark was completely redecorated and refurnished in the 1750s by the Fetherstonhaugh family and their work has remained almost entirely unchanged - not only the furniture, even some of the fabrics and wallpapers remain in excellent condition. Outside there's a pretty Regency garden that has been restored to the original Repton design and commands stunning views away to

the sea. Uppark has an intriguing connection with the author HG Wells. When Wells was a young boy, Sir Harry Fetherstonhaugh was the lord of Uppark. He was married late in life to his dairymaid. They had no children and after Sir Harry's death she lived on at Uppark. Wells's mother was employed as her housekeeper and the boy's recollections of life at the big house are fondly recorded in his autobiography.

BURITON

2 miles S of Petersfield off the A3

An ancient church surrounded by trees and overlooking a large tree-lined duck pond is flanked by an appealing early-18th century manor house (private) built by the father of Edward Gibbon, the celebrated historian. The younger Gibbon wrote much of his magnum opus *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* in his study here. Gibbon was critical of the house's position, 'at the end of the village and the bottom of the hill', but was highly appreciative of the view over the Downs: 'the long hanging woods in sight of the house could not perhaps have been improved by art or expense'.

To the south of Buriton, set within the South Downs National Park, is the Queen Elizabeth Country Park, the largest of Hampshire's public open spaces, and home to a very extensive variety of wildlife, notably flowers and butterflies. Facilities include a visitor centre, café, shop, theatre and activity area.

CHALTON

5 miles S of Petersfield off the A3

Situated on a slope of chalk down, Chalton is home to **Butser Ancient Farm**, a reconstruction of an Iron Age farm that has received worldwide acclaim for its research methodology and results. There's a magnificent great roundhouse, prehistoric and Roman crops are grown, ancient breeds of cattle roam



Uppark House

the hillside, and metal is worked according to ancient techniques. One of the most significant projects here is the construction of a replica Roman villa, complete with hypocaust, using the same methods as the Romans did. A wonderful living laboratory, the farm is open daily year round, plus weekends Easter to October, and there is also a programme of special themed events.



Beech Trees, West Meon

HAMBLEDON

8 miles SW of Petersfield, off the B2150

A village of Georgian houses and well known for its vineyard, Hambledon is most famous for its cricketing connections. It was at the Hambledon Cricket Club that the rules of the game were first formulated in 1774. The club's finest hour came in 1777 when the team, led by the landlord of the Bat and Ball Inn, beat an All England team by an innings and 168 runs! A granite monument stands on **Broadhalfpenny Down** where the early games were played.

EAST MEON

5 miles W of Petersfield off the A32 or A272

Tucked away in the lovely valley of the River Meon and surrounded by high downs, East Meon has been described as 'the most unspoilt of Hampshire villages and the nicest'. As if that weren't enough, the village also boasts one of the finest and most venerable churches in the county. The central tower of **All Saints Church** has walls 4feet thick dating back to the 12th century, and is a stunning example of Norman architecture at its best. Inside, the church's greatest treasure is its remarkable

12th century Tournai font of black marble, exquisitely carved with scenes depicting the fall of Adam and Eve. Only seven of these wonderful fonts are known to exist in England, (four of them in Hampshire) and East Meon's is generally regarded as the most magnificent of them all.

Just across the road from the church is the 15th century **Courthouse**, which also has walls 4 feet thick. It's a lovely medieval manor house where for generations the Bishops of Winchester, as Lords of the Manor, held their courts. The venerable old building would have been a familiar sight to the 'compleat angler' Izaak Walton who spent many happy hours fishing in the River Meon nearby.

WEST MEON

8 miles W of Petersfield on the A32

A sizeable village set beside the River Meon, West Meon has a graveyard that provided the final resting place for two very different characters. In 1832, Thomas Lord, founder of the famous cricket ground in London, was buried here; in 1963, the ashes of the notorious spy Guy Burgess were sprinkled on the grave of his mother in a suitably clandestine nighttime ceremony.

Accommodation, Food & Drink and Places to Visit

The establishments featured in this section includes hotels, inns, guest houses, bed & breakfasts, restaurants, cafés, tea and coffee shops, tourist attractions and places to visit. Each establishment has an entry number which can be used to identify its location at the beginning of the relevant county chapter.

In addition full details of all these establishments and many others can be found on the Travel Publishing website - www.findsomewhere.co.uk. This website has a comprehensive database covering the whole of the United Kingdom.



1 THE LYNDHURST TEA HOUSE

26 Lyndhurst High Street, Lyndhurst, Hampshire SO43 7BE
Tel: 023 8028 2656

The Lyndhurst Tea House is a small and popular family owned business where customers from near and far return time and time again. Owners Nita and Ray have been here for four years but they have over 25 years of experience in the hospitality trade under their belts. Within this delightful tea house they have created a wonderful and welcoming atmosphere and as a result they have a thriving business on their hands.

They are open seven days a week between 9am and 4:30pm serving a great deal more than tea. There is comfortable seating for up to 70 people and customers can choose from a specials board offering seasonal produce or the extensive printed menu. Ray makes the majority of the meals right here on the premises, all prepared freshly to order.

The food is definitely the main attraction here and great emphasis is placed on quality produce that is sourced locally from Hampshire and Dorset suppliers, which are usually small family owned businesses.

For a light bite there is a vast selection of generously filled Ciabbattas, jacket potatoes, paninis, sandwiches and baguettes. Breakfast is served all day and there are many variations to choose from including the decadent smoked salmon and scrambled eggs or the breakfast rarebit.

For something heartier the chef's recommendations are mouth-watering and include a grilled fillet of seasoned salmon served with a lemon and mixed herb butter, crushed new potatoes and fresh seasonal vegetables. The Pasta Milano is made with chicken, red wine, tomato and pesto sauce dusted with parmesan and served with crusty French bread. A trio of handmade and individually flavoured sausages also feature on the menu, served within a giant Yorkshire pudding with lashings of onion gravy.

The Landowner's Lunch takes the traditional ploughman's to a new level, with chicken, ham and cheese all served with fresh mixed leaves, crusty bread and the delicious Tea House Chutney. Traditional Welsh Rarebit and a delectable Croque Monsieur are among the Lyndhurst Tea House specials.

To quench your thirst there is freshly ground coffee, speciality teas, and a selection of cold beverages, milkshakes and smoothies. For a real calorie boost the Tea House Special Hot Chocolate is made with Belgian chocolate and topped with whipped cream and a chocolate flake. Wine and bottled beer is available from 11am, when ordered with a meal. Children are made welcome here and there is easy access for pushchairs and anyone with limited mobility.



2 LITTLE HAYES

43 Romsey Road, Lyndhurst, Hampshire SO43 7AR
Tel: 023 8028 3816
e-mail: wendy@littlehayes.co.uk
website: www.littlehayes.co.uk

A warm and friendly welcome is assured at **Little Hayes** guest house where hosts Wendy and Stefan offer outstanding bed and breakfast accommodation at affordable prices. With six luxurious and spacious rooms to choose from, this is the perfect place to relax and unwind in between exploring the many delights of The New Forest.

This attractive Victorian house is just a short stroll from the centre of Lyndhurst and is situated within its own beautiful grounds. Five of the guest bedrooms are en-suite and the sixth has its own private bathroom. The rooms are thoughtfully equipped with added extras that are very handy when you are staying away from home. The owners are also happy to assist with purchasing flowers or chocolates for you room if you want to make your stay extra special.

A fantastic and hearty home cooked breakfast is prepared for guests each morning with a choice of Traditional English, smoked salmon or Vegetarian breakfasts. The hosts are happy to meet any special dietary requirements. There is a no-smoking policy throughout the house and for your convenience there is off road parking and cycle store facilities. Golf, pony trekking, cycle hire and walking facilities are close at hand and Wendy and Stefan are happy to assist with bookings. Little Hayes has been awarded 4 star by the AA.



3 ROSEDALE B & B

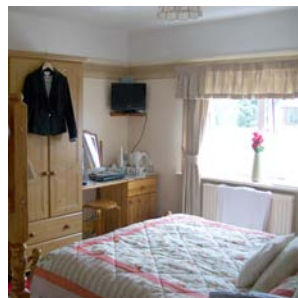
24 Shaggs Meadow, Lyndhurst, Hampshire SO43 7BN
Tel: 02380 283793
e-mail: rosedalebedandbreakfast@btinternet.com
website: www.rosedalebedandbreakfast.co.uk

Comfortable accommodation, a warm welcome, attentive hosts and a hearty breakfast await guests at Rosedale Bed & Breakfast.

Situated in the heart of popular Lyndhurst, a short walk from the centre, this popular bed & breakfast offers fantastic accommodation in two en-suite bedrooms. Attentive hosts Jenny and Keith have been welcoming guests into their home since 1999, and their wonderful hospitality assures guests will have an enjoyable stay.

Both bedrooms include all the much needed necessities including internet access, and the house facilities have earned the b&b a 4 star grading. Included in the tariff is a succulent New Forest breakfast, created using fresh ingredients and Jenny is also happy to prepare an evening meal with prior arrangement; meals offered are main meal and desert with tea and coffee to follow at just £13.00 per adult and £6.50 per child. With Jenny in charge of the kitchen it comes as no surprise that the b&b has also earned a breakfast award.

The accommodation is available all year round and there is off road parking for guests.



4 THE GREENWOOD TREE

65 High Street, Lyndhurst, Hampshire SO43 7BE

Tel: 02380 282463

e-mail: thegreenwoodtree@hotmail.com

website: www.the-greenwoodtree.co.uk

Situated on the bustling high street of Lyndhurst **The Greenwood Tree** is a thriving cafe, restaurant and tea rooms in the heart of The New Forest. From the outside this traditional building has the black and white half timbered style of Tudor architecture while inside the high ceilings and contemporary decor give the place a light and modern feel.

Friendly and welcoming owners David and Sue have been running this successful business since 2003 and it is clear that they love what they do. David has over 30 years experience in senior management within the catering industry, which is evident in the outstanding standards of hospitality here and the varied menu that has something to satisfy all appetites and tastes.

Impossible to resist are the homemade cakes which are temptingly displayed in a cabinet. Each delicious cake is made from scratch in a bakery on the premises and there is even a range of gluten free cakes. A large section of the excellent menu is dedicated to The Greenwood Tree's famous waffles. With both savoury and sweet variations on offer, these Belgian waffles are made to a traditional recipe that simply has to be sampled!

Also on the menu you will find traditional full English breakfasts which are served all day long as well as healthier alternatives to start your day including homemade granola topped with honey, yoghurt and fresh banana. There is a great selection of classic sandwiches, toasties, baps and baguettes with gourmet fillings such as brie, bacon and cranberry or Italian meatballs, tomato sauce and mozzarella.

If it's a hearty meal you're after then there is plenty to choose from with traditional roast beef and Yorkshire pudding on the menu alongside fish and chips, homemade quiche, and The Greenwood Tree special pasta and pies. Local produce is used where possible and every dish is made fresh to order.

There is an overwhelming choice when it comes to beverages, with fairtrade coffee, speciality teas, milkshakes, smoothies and other cold beverages. There is even a special selection of drinks especially for children, highlighting what a family friendly place this is.

There really is something for everyone at The Greenwood Tree, which is open daily between 8:30am and 5pm and from 6pm to 9pm on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays during the summer months. There is seating for 80 people inside and due to the popularity of this great place, bookings are not taken and tables are offered on a first come first served basis.



5 THE COMPASS INN

Winsor, Cadnam, Hampshire SO40 2HE

Tel: 02380 812237

e-mail: mop.draper@btopenworld.com

website: www.compassinn.co.uk

'One of Hampshire's finest public houses'

Situated in the pleasant village of Winsor is The Compass Inn.

Frequented by locals and visitors alike, this is an outstanding venue for lovers of fine food and ale.

'A riot of colour' is the best way to describe the frontage of the Compass inn during the summer, when cream coloured walls are almost smothered with a profusion of hanging baskets, window boxes and tubs. The beer garden to the rear is equally colourful and offers a wonderful place to enjoy a refreshing beverage on a warm evening.

What the exterior boasts in colour, the interior brags in charm.

The old beams, wooden floors, bygone memorabilia, and pictures and photos on display really give this inn a wealth of character.

Mop Draper has been in charge here for the past 16 years, and her hospitality is unequalled. Her bar offers 5 real ales in Ringwood Best, Gales HSB, London Pride, Doom Bar and a rotating guest ale, allowing locals to broaden their 'ale' horizons!

The quality food is prepared and cooked by professional chef Phil Butler and his menu offers a fine selection of tasty dishes created using locally sourced produce. Dishes such as sausages, mash & roast onion gravy, homemade burger with smoked cheddar and blue cheese, beer battered cod with chips & peas, steak and fish specials and plenty more, mean guests will be left spoilt for choice. Such is the popularity of the food that it is essential to book from Thursday through to Sunday. For those looking to indulge a sweet tooth, the cream teas are a speciality and are sure to impress!

The Compass knows how to entertain and hosts a beer festival on the May and August bank holiday each year. It starts on Friday and ends on Sunday offering 3 bands and up to 30 real ales to enjoy.



6 THE FOREST INN

Lyndhurst Road, Ashurst, Hampshire SO40 7DU

Tel: 02380 293071

e-mail: info@forestinn.org

website: www.forestinn.org

Situated at Ashurst in the heart of the New Forest is the aptly named Forest Inn. This long low building, set back from the road, is a popular country local and an ideal spot to take a break from a journey along the A35. This welcoming inn has a growing reputation for the quality of its food, the well kept ales and the unbeatable hospitality, thanks to leaseholders, Debs and Dave.

With their wealth of experience, the pair went about improving the inn with a thorough refurbishment, and their hard work has truly paid off. The place now oozes class; the flagstone floors, beamwork, fireplaces and old memorabilia create a charming place in which to relax.

Open all day every day, the bar presents 6 real ales, with Ringwood Best and Ringwood 49er the regulars. There is also a varied selection of wines, spirits and soft drinks.

Dave is in charge of the kitchen, and having been a chef for over 18 years, it comes as no surprise that his dishes prove extremely popular. Main courses include steak, mushroom & ale pudding, pork & leek sausages, mushroom wellington and whole grilled sea bass. The specials menu offers a fantastic range of hearty favourites which change regularly, allowing the regulars to try something new. For those who have a smaller appetite, an alternative menu offers a selection of dishes that can be ordered in half or full portions. Food is served Monday - Friday 12 - 2.30pm and 6pm - 9pm, Saturday & Sunday 12 - 9pm.

Children are welcome, and there is a play area to the rear for them to enjoy. The inn hosts a quiz night every Sunday evening from 9pm, as well as other various forms of entertainment (please check website for more details).



7 BEAULIEU NATIONAL MOTOR MUSEUM

Beaulieu, Brockenhurst, Hampshire SO42 7ZN

Tel: 01590 612345 Fax: 01590 612624

e-mail: info@beaulieu.co.uk

website: www.beaulieu.co.uk

The **National Motor Museum**, in the grounds of Lord Montagu's estate, houses over 250 vehicles. Among the exhibits - the oldest dates from 1896 - are world landspeed record-breakers *Bluebird* and *Golden Arrow*, Damon Hill's championship winning Formula 1 Williams Grand Prix car, an Outspan Orange car, Ariel and Vincent motorcycles and much more. Special attractions include the exhibition of James Bond cars, including the Jaguar XKR Roadster from *Die Another Day* and the world record jumping boat from *Live and Let Die*. The exhibition also includes examples of Q's gadgetry and some of the villains' trademarks, notably Jaws' steel teeth. One of the many permanent displays is an accurate reconstruction of a 1938 garage complete with forecourt, servicing bay, machine shop and office.



Many Montagu family treasures are now on display in **Palace House**, formerly the Great Gatehouse of Beaulieu Abbey, where visitors can meet characters from Victorian days, among them the butler, housemaid and cook, who will talk about their lives. The old monks' refectory houses an exhibition of monastic life, and embroidered wall hangings designed and created by Belinda, Lady Montagu, depict the story of the Abbey from its earliest days. The glorious gardens are an attraction in their own right, and there are plenty of rides and drives for young and old alike - including a monorail that runs through the roof of the Museum in the course of its tour of the estate. Open every day 10am-5pm (6pm in summer)

9 SOMETHING'S BREWING AT THE WATERSPLASH

61 Brookley Road, Brockenhurst, Hampshire SO42 7RB

Tel: 01590 624753

e-mail: somethingsbrewing@btinternet.com

website: www.somethings-brewing.co.uk

The family run **Something's Brewing at the Watersplash** is situated in the heart of The New Forest and has a very pretty side garden.

Owners Paula and Mark refurbished the place in 2010, creating a delightful coffee shop serving award-winning coffee and a great selection of speciality teas. Traditional cream teas and tempting home baked cakes are served all day and the menu offers a great choice of light lunches, made with local New Forest Marque produce. Displayed inside there is local art work, ceramics and furniture which is all for sale. Walkers, cyclists, children and well behaved dogs are all welcome!





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Places to Stay

8 THE LANGLEY TAVERN

Lepe Road, Langley, Southampton, Hampshire SO45 1XR

Tel: 023 8089 1402

e-mail: leehall3@sky.com

In a beautiful location on the edge of the New Forest, **The Langley Tavern** is easily found on Lepe Road. Just ten minutes from here is Solent Beach where there is a coast path with wonderful views over to the Isle of Wight.

Lee and his friendly, easy-going staff will make you feel at home in this early 20th century inn. Fully refurbished to a high standard in 2009, the Langley was given a fantastic new look and more homely feel. The bar area has new comfy seating to chill out on.

Meals at the Langley are sure to delight your taste buds with traditional (and some not so traditional) homemade cuisine. Quality food can be chosen from an extensive main menu with all dishes being reasonably priced. The spiced lamb chump steak, served with roasted vegetable couscous with apricot, chickpeas, almonds and cumin jus is one dish not to be missed, and the same can be said for the confit duck leg with dauphinoise potatoes, braised red cabbage and sultanas. Or if you're in the mood for something more traditional the Ringwood Best ale battered fish and chunky chips with garden peas and homemade tartar sauce is a delightful dish. On Thursdays you will find the Langley hosting an evening steak night which is always very popular, with 4 different cuts of beef to choose from and all Hampshire reared and aged. There is also a separate children's menu with appetising, healthy dishes for the younger clientele.

Alongside the delicious cuisine, Lee has available an excellent selection of quality wines to compliment your meal. At the bar you can choose a pint of real ale, including the superb Ringwood Best and 49er, plus there are always two rotating guest ales available at any time.

At present the Langley has five (double or twin) ensuite rooms available all year round on a room only basis. There are plans to add more rooms, so to keep yourself up-to-date on their progress visit their official Facebook group for all the latest news and events at the Langley Tavern.



10 FISHERMANS REST

**All Saints Road, Lymington,
Hampshire SO41 8FD**

Tel: 01590 678931

e-mail: fishermansrest@fullers.co.uk

Whether you are after a quiet relaxing pint or a place to enjoy a great meal, **Fisherman's Rest** is the place to go. Ideally situated between the New Forest and the Solent coastline this traditional pub, which used to be the haunt of smugglers, now welcomes many visitors to the area.

Welcoming host Neal Till is ably assisted by his excellent Head Chef Christian Rivron who has created an extensive menu for all tastes. Lunch is served from Monday to Saturday between midday and 2:15pm and evening meals are available between 6pm and 9:15pm. On Sundays food is served from midday right through to 8:30pm. Local produce features strongly on the menu and on the chef's specials board, which is regularly changed to reflect what is available each season. In the summer locally caught fresh fish can be enjoyed including fresh lobster and crab. Meals can be enjoyed in the wonderfully cosy atmosphere inside or in the new outside dining area.

At the bar you will find excellent cask conditioned ales including London Pride, Seafarers and a rotating guest ale. There is also a great choice of exceptional fine wines and in the summer there is often live music and barbecues.





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11 THE CHEQUERS INN

Lower Woodside, Lymington, Hampshire SO41 8AH

Tel: 01590 673415

e-mail: simonthoyts@yahoo.com

website: www.chequersinnlymington.com

Making its home in a picturesque, scenic location, just a short drive away from popular Lymington, is **The Chequers Inn**. This charming, 16th century pub has a wealth of history and the chequered sign, originally hanging from the roofs eaves, represents probably the oldest in the world; a chequer sign was discovered during the excavations of the ruins at Pompeii.

Friendly host Simon took over the lease in 1999, and has been offering a warm welcome to his guests ever since; with his unquestionable experience and hospitality it comes as no surprise that the premises is always busy. The kitchen is under the control of experienced chefs Matt and Steve, and their efforts see visitors return time and time again. The menu offers dishes such as avocado and prawn salad, moules mariniere, chargrilled sirloin steak, chilli, curry and medallions of pork in chilli, coriander and lime. A delicious roast is added to the menu on Sunday and is extremely



popular. The blackboard a la carte menu changes with the seasons and there is always a range of tasty bar snacks along with BBQs at weekends during the summer (weather permitting!). The patio offers a perfect place to relax with a pint on a warm summers eve, and the wood-burning stove makes the restaurant an ideal choice during those chilly nights.

Real ales are a speciality here, and the bar also offers an extensive wine list along with the other regular tipples you would expect to see.

Whether you're after history, unbeatable food, a relaxed atmosphere or well kept ales, The Chequers will not disappoint and is well worth a visit.



12 THE TOLLHOUSE INN

167 Southampton Road, Lymington, Hampshire SO41 9HA

Tel: 01590 672142

e-mail: dethm364@aol.com

website: www.tollhouseinn.co.uk

Dean and Mel Thomas warmly welcome visitors to **The Tollhouse Inn**, a splendid public house adored for its great atmosphere and fine dining. This beautiful Inn dates back to the 18th century and has always been a pub. The current owners have recently refurbished the building to a very high standard inside and out, whilst still retaining much of its original character and charm.

An exciting menu is offered with a range of dishes to suit all tastes, each prepared to order with a specials board displaying seasonally inspired dishes. The menu features country pub classics such as steaks from the grill, an 8oz prime beef burger with cheddar and bacon and a leek, cheese, broccoli and potato pie. The selection of fresh fish on offer represents outstanding variety with lemon sole, mussels, trout, a luxury fish pie and the classic fish and chips or scampi and chips. There is also a great selection of starters and an impossible to resist menu of desserts. On a Sunday the traditional roast dinner is always a popular choice.

The Tollhouse Inn is open all day every day with food served in the summer months from midday to 9:30pm at weekends and from midday to 8:30pm on Monday to Thursday.

There are shorter dining times during the winter months. At the bar there is a choice of three real ales to enjoy, including Ringwood 49er, Ringwood Best and Tribute. You can enjoy your pint or indeed your meal outside on the pleasant patio area, which is ideal on a warm sunny day.

Private functions are catered for at The Tollhouse Inn with a small and intimate room which seats up to 20 people and is ideal for family gatherings or business meetings, as it has AV equipment for presentations. For those who want to be entertained there is live music every Saturday with free entry and a Jazz night every Thursday from 8:39pm. The Blues Jam on the first Monday of every month from 8:30pm is a great evening to attend and each year the Lymington Music Festival involves up to 14 bands playing here.

The Tollhouse Inn is situated on the edge of Lymington town centre with its unique collection of boutique shops. It is also within easy walking distance of the historic Iron Age hill fort of Buckland Rings, which is an unspoilt and peaceful place to visit and is full of rabbits, birds and other wildlife. Nearby there are a number of beautiful woodland walks.



13 THE WHEEL INN

Sway Road, Pennington, Lymington, Hampshire SO41 8LJ

Tel: 01590 676122

website: www.thewheelinnpub.co.uk

The Wheel Inn is a smashing pub located in the hamlet of Pennington just a short drive from the town of Lymington. It is well worth a visit to experience the fantastic hospitality of owners Peter and Marie, who have been here for 3 years now. Head Chef Cha-On Ratanatham joined the team in August 2010 and since then the food served here has been taken to new heights.

Cha-On has created a truly distinctive menu featuring an exciting array of authentic Thai food, served in the atmospheric restaurant area of the pub which seats 22 people. There is both a daily specials board and a printed menu to choose from, featuring plenty of dishes to tantalise your taste buds, all varying in heat from mild to hot and with many dishes suitable for vegetarians. There is a variety of starters, soups, Thai spicy salads, curries, stir fries, noodles and rice dishes to sample. Not to mention the Chef's Specials which includes Weeping Tiger, a gourmet dish of thinly sliced marinated sirloin steak in a traditional Thai sauce.

The delicious choice of curries features the well known Thai Red, Green and Yellow alongside Massaman, Panang, Jungle Curry and Chu Chee Curry, a creamy curry that can be served with a choice of King Prawns or Rainbow Trout. All of the dishes are also available to take-away.

The pub is open daily from 11:00am until late with food served from Tuesday to Sunday and on Bank Holiday Mondays, when it is important to book a table as well as on Fridays and Saturdays. Children are welcome here and there is good disabled access and facilities.

At the bar you will find a selection of three real ales to choose between, with Ringwood Best the regular and two rotating guest ales which are usually supplied by local breweries. The inn is also included in the CAMRA Good Beer Guide.

The entertainment at this friendly and vibrant pub attracts visitors from far and wide. A popular Comedy Night occurs here on the second Tuesday of every month from 8pm. Top comedians from all over the country perform and tickets are £4 in advance or £6 on the door. Early booking is advisable to avoid disappointment.

Every Monday from 9pm there is the amazing Acoustic Singaround. You can bring along an acoustic instrument, dust off your vocal chords and participate or alternatively just relax and absorb the wonderful atmosphere and music, which ranges from traditional folk to classic rock.



14 THE SPORTSMANS ARMS

The Square, Pennington, Lymington, Hampshire SO41 8GN
 Tel: 01590 671043

Situated in the centre of the village of Pennington, half a mile off the main A332 on the edge of Lymington towards Christchurch. **The Sportsmans Arms** was taken over by father Barry and son Paul in April of this year and they are ably assisted by the families right hand and assistant manager, Rebecca. The pub didn't have the best of reputations before the family took over, but in their short time here, they have really turned the place around. Locals are returning in their numbers and visitors are made to feel at home whether coming for a pint or a meal out with the family.

This is one of the few places for miles around where you can enjoy a game of darts or pool and watch sport on the T.V, whilst enjoying a well kept pint and quality homemade pub grub. The Sportsman has just one real ale at present, Ringwood Best, but hopes to introduce a second very soon, which will be on a rotating basis using either local or national breweries.

Food is available throughout the day, from opening time until 30 minutes before closing. It's a short but concise menu, and all dishes are freshly cooked to order and freshly prepared. If there's something different that you fancy and they've got the ingredients, Rebecca your cook will be happy to make it for you - 'anything to please' is their motto.

Events are held throughout the week with everyone welcome to come along and join in the fun. There are ongoing entertainment evenings, Sundays play host to a quiz with cash & voucher prizes and what better way to spend a Monday evening than playing bingo amongst friends, plus when each Tuesday rolls around, free pool is available to all. Come along soon to taste a good meal or have a sociable evening at the weekend with the local regulars. Children and dogs welcome. Open all day, everyday.



15 EVERTON NURSERIES GARDEN CENTRE & CAMELLIAS RESTAURANT

A337, Everton, Lymington, Hampshire SO41 0JZ

Tel: 01590 642155

e-mail: sales@evertonnurseries.co.uk

website: www.evertonnurseries.co.uk

Situated at Everton, off the A337 is a top of the range Garden Centre with an outstanding restaurant.

Set in 25 acres and family-run, **Everton Nurseries Garden Centre and Camellias Restaurant** has everything the 'green fingered' would ever need, not to mention a fantastic selection of find food and drink to enjoy after purchasing those much needed garden goods.

As they are Nurserymen growing many of the plants they offer, visitors will find the plant area stocked with an extremely comprehensive range of nursery stock divided into various categories to help them find what you require. Headings include: trees, shrubs, conifers, dwarf conifers, herbaceous plants, roses, heathers and alpine.

The nursery covers some 20 acres adjacent to the garden centre and provides most of the hardy plants stocked in the plant area. In addition to the container grown plants stocked all year around, they offer field grown trees and specimen conifers, fruit trees and trained fruit trees. These may be ordered through the Garden Centre.

As well as selling the seed/plant themselves, Everton also provides all the much needed essentials to make sure your specimen gets off to a good start; including tools, chemicals and fertilizers. Outdoors furniture, BBQs, lawn care products and gardening books are also available allowing customers to create the garden of their dreams. Open all year round from 9am - 5.30pm.

Camellias restaurant was established in 2006 and has gone from strength to strength ever since. It provides a great place to relax with friends, family or to have a quick break after browsing in the garden centre. Dishes are homemade and created using locally sourced produce as much as possible. Open 9.30am - 4.30pm.



16 TESSA'S RESTAURANT

**58 Lymington Road, New Milton,
Hampshire BH25 6PZ**
Tel: 01425 610081
e-mail: glynriley@yahoo.com

Traditional English Cuisine

The popular and well loved **Tessa's Restaurant** has been in the capable hands of Tessa and Glyn for the past 6 years and is going from strength to strength. Inside the restaurant seats up to 52 people and there is a warm and welcoming atmosphere with comfortable and stylish furniture and immaculate presentation and attention to detail. For those who want to dine alfresco on warm summer days there is a pretty rear patio area with benches and a collection of pots and tubs containing beautiful blooms.

Tessa is 'Queen of the Kitchen' and all of the dishes are homemade on the premises and prepared fresh to order. Diners can choose from a printed menu or the daily specials board which often reflects the seasonal produce that is available locally.

Tessa's Restaurant closes on a Monday, except for Bank Holidays, but is open for lunch all year round from Tuesday to Sunday between 8:30am until 3:30pm. From Easter onwards there is evening dinner service from 6pm to 9pm on Fridays and Saturdays. Group bookings are accepted outside of the usual opening times. Children are welcome and well behaved dogs are also welcome in certain areas.



17 BEACHCOMBER CAFE

Marine Drive, Barton-on-Sea, Hampshire BH25 7DZ
Tel: 01425 611599
e-mail: info@beachcomber-cafe.co.uk
website: www.beachcomber-cafe.co.uk

With stunning views over Henistury Head, the Isle of Wight and The Solent, The Beachcomber Cafe has an extremely enviable location.

Offering an exceptional menu of fresh homecooked food, the Barry family have created a perfect place to enjoy good food with fine views. Visitors to this much loved eatery can expect to see an extensive menu which will leave them spoilt for choice. The dishes include homemade fishcakes, locally cooked ham, egg and chips, breaded haddock, Whitby scampi, chicken burger, Aberdeen Angus burger and plenty more. Between October and March roast dinners are added to the menu on Sunday. With seating for 100 inside and a further 100 outside, there is plenty of room for larger parties. Open all year round, 9am - 6pm (open later during the summer months).

The family also own Pilgrim's Bed & Breakfast, a 4 star guest house situated in nearby Milford-on-Sea. There are 4 double en-suite bedrooms equipped with all the much needed essentials. The tariff is very reasonable and includes a hearty full English breakfast.



18 THE FISH INN

*The Bridges, Ringwood,
Hampshire BH24 2AA
Tel: 01425 473185
website: www.thefishinn.net*

Located in a pleasant rural setting, on the banks on the River Avon, is **The Fish Inn** - a top notch inn with a restaurant of distinction.

The buildings exterior with white painted brick, immaculate thatch and colourful profusion of hanging baskets is matched with the interior where wonderful old beams, slatted wooden floors and open fires paint a splendidly traditional picture.

Recently refurbished, the Fish Inn draws lovers of fine food like a magnet. The quality food is created using local produce where possible and is available daily from 12 - 9.30pm. The menu includes dishes such as chilli con carne, fish & chips, steak, beef and ale pie, beef lasagne, curry and plenty more. On Sunday a choice of three traditional roasts with homemade Yorkshire pudding is added to the menu. Due to the popularity of the food it is advisable to book if you wish to dine on a weekend.

The well stocked bar offers a wide choice of tipples including four real ales, and the pleasant atmosphere creates the perfect place in which to relax.



19 THE LAMB INN

*2 Hightown Road, Ringwood, Hampshire BH24 1NW
Tel: 01425 473721
website: www.lambinnringwood.co.uk*

Conveniently situated within walking distance of the bustling market town of Ringwood on the edge of the New Forest, **The Lamb Inn** offers superb hospitality, delicious food and comfortable bed and breakfast accommodation. Visitors can expect a warm and generous welcome from host Michael Dunn who has been here for 12 years.

Open 7 days a week from midday until late, food is served every night between 5pm and 10pm. Each and every dish is prepared to order and delicious pizzas are a speciality here, available to eat in or take away. Real ale lovers must sample Ringwood Best, which is a popular cask ale sourced from a local brewery.

There are five en-suite guest bedrooms all immaculately presented and comfortably furnished with the benefit of tea and coffee making facilities and digital television. Two of the rooms are located on the ground floor giving ease of access for anyone with limited mobility. The accommodation is well priced to include a full English breakfast in the morning, served between 7am and 9am. Children under 14 are not allowed on the premises after 9pm and this restriction also extends to the accommodation, where pets are also not allowed.



20 THE RED SHOOT INN & BREWERY

Toms Lane, Linwood, Ringwood, Hampshire BH24 3QT

Tel: 01425 475792

e-mail: redshoot@wadworth.co.uk

website: www.redshoot.co.uk

Situated in the heart of the New Forest in Linwood is a true hidden gem. Due to its enviable location **The Red Shoot Inn & Brewery** has become extremely popular with walkers, campers and cyclists, and is a destination pub for lovers of fine food, ale and picturesque countryside. Watch the horses and ponies roam whilst enjoying a bite to eat or a refreshing beverage on the outside patio.

Expertly run by Jude and Simon since 2004, the inn offers a fantastic menu which has been put together using locally sourced produce. Visitors can expect to see dishes such as hand carved ham, egg & chips, Chef's hot curry, bangers & mash, wholemeal breaded scampi & chips and plenty more including vegetarian options and a daily specials board. Food is served Mon - Sat 12 - 9pm and Sun 12 - 8pm during the summer, Mon - Fri 12 - 2.30pm & 6 - 9pm, Sat 12 - 9pm and Sun 12-8pm during the winter.

The Red Shoot has its own brewery, allowing guests to not only enjoy two Wadsworth ales, but also up to four of the inn's very own brewed ales. Open all day everyday. The inn hosts live bands every Sunday throughout the year, Beer Festivals in April & October and a family run campsite adjacent. Muddy boots and dogs welcome!



21 ROCKBOURNE ROMAN VILLA

Rockbourne, Fordingbridge, Hampshire SP3 3PG

Tel: 01725 518541

website: www.hants.gov.uk/museum/rockbourne

Rockbourne Roman Villa, the largest of its kind in the region, was discovered in 1942 when oyster shells and tiles were found by a farmer in the course of digging out a ferret. A local chartered surveyor and noted antiquarian, the late AT Morley Hewitt, recognised the significance of the finds and devoted 30 years of his life to the villa. Excavations of the site have revealed superb mosaics, part of the amazing underfloor heating system and the outline of the great villa's 40 rooms. Many of the hundreds of objects unearthed are on display in the site's museum, and souvenirs are for sale in the well-stocked museum shop.



22 ROSE & THISTLE

Rockbourne, Fordingbridge, Hampshire SP6 3NL

Tel: 01725 518236

e-mail: enquiries@roseandthistle.co.uk

website: www.roseandthistle.co.uk

Located on the outskirts of the New Forest **The Rose & Thistle** is a beautiful thatched pub dating back to the 16th century and situated in the picture postcard village of Rockbourne. This eye catching building was originally built as three cottages and enjoys a lovely cottage garden to the front where visitors can sit outside on warm sunny days. It first became a pub in the early 1890's and has had many colourful landlords since then, one of whom is still said to haunt the building.

Inside there is an abundance of character features including beamed ceilings, carved wooden benches and cosy log fires, which make this pub immensely inviting during the winter months. Current owner Kerry has taken this pub from strength to strength since she arrived here in 2008 and along with her friendly staff she extends excellent hospitality and offers delicious freshly prepared and home cooked pub food.

Head Chef Nigel has created a traditional menu with a strong emphasis on local and seasonal produce. The beef and pork is sourced from the New Forest, game is acquired from a local game keeper in the village and fresh fish is delivered from the south coast. The exciting and varied menu is often changing but consistently offers classic pub favourites. The pub is particularly famous for its home made steak and kidney pudding and the Rose & Thistle Homity Pie is not to be missed. As well as the printed menu with a selection of starters, main courses, bar snacks, homemade puddings and hot beverages, there is also a daily specials board featuring fresh fish and game specials subject to season and market availability.

Food is served daily at both lunchtime and in the evenings, with the exception of Sunday evenings when only the bar is open. Due to the popularity of the food here, booking is essential on evenings and weekends. The Rose & Thistle is proud to have a Cask Marque and the bar offers regular real ales including Timothy Taylor's Landlord, Fullers London Pride and Palmers Cooper Ale, alongside a rotating guest ale. Kerry also appreciates a good cider and there is a fantastic selection to prove this, with Black Rat and Orchard Pig on tap alongside bottled ciders including Magners, Thatchers Cox's, Westons Organic and Koppaberg. The extensive wine list features bottles from around the world and has something to suit all tastes.



23 THE AUGUSTUS JOHN

116 Station Road, Fordingbridge, Hampshire SP6 1DG

Tel: 01425 652 098

e-mail: enquiries@augustusjohnfordingbridge.co.uk

website: www.augustusjohnfordingbridge.co.uk

The Augustus John, formerly known as The Railway Hotel, took its new name from Fordingbridge's most famous and flamboyant resident, the late artist Augustus John who chose the pub as his favourite watering hole. Being situated in the beautiful New Forest town of Fordingbridge, known as 'The Northern Gateway to The New Forest', the pub attracts visitors as well as regular locals who come here both to dine and have a drink with friends.

There is a large variety of food for all types of people of all ages available. Whether you are vegetarian or love your steak and chips, The Augustus John can supply good quality food to suit any taste.

The Augustus John hosts four guest rooms which can cater for single or double occupancy. They are situated in an attractive courtyard at the rear of the bar/restaurant. Away from the main road and with easy access to the garden and bar, the rooms are perfect for a short or long stay. In addition to the peaceful tranquillity of the New Forest with its nature havens, visitors can also experience a host of other cycle-ways and bridle paths locally.

If it is a meal out, a short stay or even a business trip, The Augustus John has everything you will need for a pleasant and enjoyable stay.



25 CHURCHILL ARMS

Daggons Road, Alderholt, Fordingbridge, Hampshire SP6 3AA

Tel: 01425 652147

e-mail: unawhite1@btconnect.com

With its picturesque scenery, and close proximity to well known Fordingbridge, the village of Alderholt has plenty to offer visitors. Possibly one of the best reasons to visit this friendly village is The Churchill Arms. A family run affair, this pub offers unbeatable hospitality, excellent food and well kept ales. Una and Dave have been in charge here since 2009, and through their hard work, the inn has gone from strength to strength.

For those looking for a night off the cooking, the menu offers a fantastic choice of traditional, freshly prepared favourites such as beef lasagne, steak & ale pie, Badger beer battered cod & chips and wholemeal scampi. Such is the popularity of the food that it is advisable to book on Thursday evenings, Fridays and Saturdays. A hearty roast is added to the menu on Sundays and offers a great way to finish off a Sunday stroll in the surrounding countryside. Thursday evening offers a real treat in Pie and Pint night, and visitors can choose from a range of tasty homemade pies with various fillings.

The bar offers a wide range of popular tipples to accompany your meal, with a choice of three real ales.



24 BRIDGES - COFFEE & DINING

26 High Street, Fordingbridge, Hampshire SP6 1AX
Tel: 01425 654149

Situated in the heart of popular Fordingbridge, with a large public parking area to the rear; Bridges offers the ultimate dining experience.

Housed in a charming listed building, this superb, family run establishment offers freshly prepared main meals, cream teas, cakes & sweets and a selection of beverages including fresh coffee and alcoholic tipples. The restaurant seats 54 inside and 24 in the rear courtyard, allowing guests to enjoy the sunshine during the summer months.

The menu has been carefully put together to offer something for everyone, including vegetarian and gluten free dishes. Guests can expect to sample meals such as traditional cottage pie, beer battered fish and chunky chips, trio of New Forest sausages with creamy mashed potato, steak and kidney pudding, baked cauliflower cheese and plenty more. For those with a smaller appetite there is a selection of light bites including deep filled sandwiches, toasties, jacket potatoes, salads and homemade soup. The Specials Board is regularly updated with seasonal produce, sourced locally. The tempting sweets offer a perfect way to round off a meal and the homemade cakes provide a satisfying treat to enjoy throughout the day. Larger parties are advised to book. Ramblers, cycling clubs and groups are always welcome, and the Avon Room at the rear of the property is also available for private functions.



Bridges guarantees you will receive a warm welcome and friendly service.

Whether you're looking for a hearty meal, slice of homemade cake or a coffee to wake you up of a morning, Bridges will not disappoint.



26 ALDERHOLT MILL

**Sandleheath Road, Alderholt, Fordingbridge,
Hampshire SP6 1PU Tel: 01425 653130
e-mail: enquiries@alderholtmill.co.uk
website: www.alderholtmill.co.uk**

Set amidst lovely Dorset countryside, is the much loved Alderholt Mill; a working water mill offering both bed & breakfast and self-catering accommodation. The mill stands on an island formed by the River Allen, a small tributary that joins the River Avon at the nearby town of Fordingbridge.

Hardworking hosts Sandra and Richard have created an ideal retreat for those looking to escape the stresses and strains of everyday life. The bed and breakfast accommodation comprises 3 double and 1 twin-bedded room, all with en suite shower rooms; and 1 single room with wash-hand basin, private toilet and shared bathroom. At breakfast time, Sandra presents a range of tempting options including the popular full English. Guests can also sample bread made from the mill's freshly milled flour which comes from locally grown wheat.

The self-catering accommodation offers 3 flats housed in the mill - 2 on the ground floor, each sleeping 2 people, and one 1st/2nd floor flat sleeping 4/6. All the properties are comprehensively equipped, including colour TV, video, DVD and CD player, and large garden all guests to enjoy.

For those after for a real treat, the mill is open for cream teas and the sale of bread and flour, from 2pm - 6pm at weekends. Milling demonstrations take place at 3pm on Sundays between Easter and September. Providing an ideal retreat in which to unwind and really relax, Alderholt Mill is also a convenient base from which to explore not only Dorset but also West Hampshire, Salisbury, the Wiltshire Downs and, of course, the New Forest.



28 TUCKS CAFÉ

**102 Shirley High Street, Southampton,
Hampshire SO16 4FB
Tel: 023 8077 9678**

A family-friendly attitude is one of the virtues of Tucks Café, situated on the High Street in Shirley. The cheerful, functional café is a popular place, there's lots of animated chatter and close-packed tables in constant demand. And it's not surprising when the kitchen delivers value for money and generous helpings of straightforward café food.

This quality café has been personally run by Linda for the past three years and during her time here the café has won an award each year for its flower-filled patio.

The Southampton in Bloom competition recognises areas which are colourful, with eye-catching displays that enhance the environment. It's not surprising then that the Tuck Café, with its myriad of colourful flowers in pretty displays, has been the winner and took home the Gold Award in both 2009 and 2010. The 2011 winners have yet to be announced at the time of writing this, so be sure to ask how they fared when you visit.

Closed on Sundays, open Monday - Saturday 8am-5pm.



27 THE STATION HOUSE AT HOLMSLEY

Holmsley, Burley, Ringwood, Hampshire BH24 4HY

Tel: 01425 402468

e-mail: info@stationhouseholmsley.com

website: www.stationhouseholmsley.com

Regarded as an oasis in the heart of the New Forest, **The Station House at Holmsley** has long been a popular tea room frequented by visitors to this stunning area of natural beauty. Owners Steve and Mary Biss took over five years ago bringing a wealth of experience and excellent hospitality. In this time they have built up the business to offer much more than a traditional cream tea, transforming it into the perfect venue for breakfast, morning coffee, lunch, afternoon tea and during the summer months evening meals from an impressively extensive bistro-style menu.

The emphasis here is on the food and there is a wide and varied menu complemented by a constantly changing specials board. Professional chefs freshly prepare each and every meal using only the finest ingredients sourced from inside the forest where possible. There is a great selection of tasty breakfasts and light bites such as sandwiches, baguettes, toasted sandwiches, jacket potatoes and salads. Firm favourites include local butcher's choice sausages served with bubble and squeak mash and onion gravy and delicious local ham, free range eggs and chips. The menu always reflects the seasonal produce available and there are great options for children as well as tempting locally made cakes and freshly baked pastries for the perfect afternoon treat. Dietary needs can be catered for.

Built in 1847, this fine Victorian building has been lovingly restored to retain many of its original character features. As its name would suggest, The Station House was once the main station at Christchurch and it is situated on an old railway line which makes it a prime location for walkers, horse riders and cyclists. This property is steeped in history and before the railway was closed in 1964 The Station House at Holmsley welcomed royalty and it also played a major part in the country's military history during World War II.

Open all year round and 7 days a week 10am to 9:30pm, the restaurant can cater for up to 70 people. A further 200 can dine alfresco either in the garden or under the station canopy. Due to the popularity of The Station House at Holmsley it is advisable to book a table if you plan to visit on weekends and evenings. Children are welcome and dogs are also welcome outside. There is easy level access and excellent disabled facilities along with ample parking for those travelling here by car.



29 BURSLEDON WINDMILL

*Windmill Lane, Bursledon, Southampton,
Hampshire SO31 8BG*

Tel: 023 8040 4999

e-mail: stensethhouse@aol.com

website: www.hants.gov.uk/museum/windmill

The last surviving working windmill in Hampshire was built by a Mrs Phoebe Langtry in 1814 at a cost of £800. Inactive from the time of the depression in the 1880s, the tower mill was restored to full working order between 1976 and 1991.

Its sails revolve whenever a good northerly or southerly wind blows, producing stoneground flour for sale.

Next to the mill is the Windmill Wood Nature Trail, a woodland habitat supporting a wide range of wildlife including woodpeckers.

Open all year - phone for admission times.



31 THE MUSEUM OF NAVAL FIREPOWER

Priddy's Hard, Gosport, Hampshire PO12 4LE

Tel: 023 9250 5600 Fax: 023 9250 5605

e-mail: info@explosion.org.uk

website: www.explosion.org.uk

Explosion! the Museum of Naval Firepower, is a hands on, interactive Museum set in the historic setting of a former gunpowder and munitions depot at Priddy's Hard, on the Gosport side of Portsmouth Harbour.

Telling the story of naval warfare from the days gunpowder to modern missiles, the two hour tour of the museum includes a stunning multi media film show set in the original 18th century gunpowder vault, with the latest technology and interactive touch screens that bring the presentations to life.

There's a fascinating social history too, including the story of how 2,500 women worked on the site during its peak in World War II. It describes the role that Priddy's Hard played in naval operations worldwide for over 200 years, as well as its importance to the local Gosport community, which not only armed the Navy but also fed and watered it.

Explosion! has a Gift Shop and Waterside Coffee Shop area that are open to non-visitors, so please stop by and sample some of our traditional homemade lunches on the Camber Dock overlooking the stunning views of the harbour.



30 PORTSMOUTH HISTORIC DOCKYARD

College Road, HM Naval Base, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO1 3LJ

Tel: 023 9286 1533 Fax: 023 9229 5252

e-mail: mail@historicdockyard.co.uk

website: www.historicdockyard.co.uk

Portsmouth Historic Dockyard is home port to three of the greatest ships ever built, but has many other attractions. The latest of these is the blockbusting Action Stations, where visitors can test their skills and abilities through a series of high-tech interactive displays and simulators.

The most famous of the ships is undoubtedly *HMS Victory*. From the outside it's a majestic three-master, but inside it's creepily claustrophobic except for the Admiral's and Captain's spacious, mahogany-panelled quarters. Visitors can pace the very same deck from which Nelson masterminded the decisive encounter with the French navy off Cape Trafalgar in 1805. Standing on the deck arrayed in his Admiral's finery, Nelson was an easy target for a keen-eyed French sniper; the precise spot where he fell and the place on the lower deck where he later died (knowing that the battle was won) are both marked by plaques.

The *Mary Rose*, the second largest ship in Henry VIII's fleet, was putting out to sea, watched proudly by the King from Southsea Common, when she suddenly heeled over and sank. All 700 men on board lost their lives. More than 400 years later, in 1982, the ship was raised in an amazingly delicate operation from the seabed. The impressively preserved remains of the ship are now housed in the timber-clad Mary Rose Museum. (One of the tombs in Portsmouth Cathedral is that of one of the *Mary Rose*'s crew.) *HMS Warrior* was the Navy's first iron-clad warship and the most formidable fighting ship the world had seen in 1860: bigger, faster and more heavily armed than any warship afloat, built of iron and powered by both sail and steam. Her size and might proved to be a deterrent to potential enemies and she never actually had to go to war.

Boat trips round the harbour give a feel of the soul of the city that has been home to the Royal Navy for more than 800 years, and the most attractive part, picturesque Old Portsmouth, can be seen to advantage from the little ferry that plies the short route to Gosport.

The Royal Naval Museum is the most fascinating of its kind, with a marvellous exhibition of the life and deeds of Nelson, and the interactive Dockyard Apprentice Exhibition explains the skills and crafts of 1911 that went into the building of the world's finest fighting ships, the Dreadnoughts. A relatively new addition is Action Stations, an exciting insight into the modern high-tech Royal Navy of today. Five interactive areas offer physical or electronic challenges and a ride on the 19 seat simulator is an experience not to be missed.



32 THE CLATFORD ARMS

**Goodworth Clatford, nr Andover,
Hampshire SP11 7RN
Tel: 01264 363298**

The **Clatford Arms** is run by Tim and Jane Battey, who moved south to Hampshire in 2008 when they took over this, their first pub. This friendly Wadsworth's pub, which lies off the A3057 a couple of miles south of Andover, is very much at the heart of the local community, a meeting place for enjoying a glass or two of beer and a game of pool or darts. There's usually a choice of three or four real ales, mainly from Wadsworth's. Jane is a talented interior designer, and her designer's eye is evident in the changes she has made to the décor. The Clatford Arms is gaining quite a reputation for its food, with local produce cooked to order with no compromise on quality and freshness. This is a traditional inn, so its menu is also traditional, with favourites like ham, egg & chips and Friday's fish & chips, with sandwiches and salads for lighter options. Families are always welcome, and at the back of the pub is a two-acre garden with picnic benches, a small football pitch, an eye-catching gazebo and quality patio area.

The bar is open Monday evening, lunchtime and evening Tuesday to Friday and all day Saturday and Sunday. Food is served Monday - Friday 9am - 3pm and Friday 6pm - 9pm. Saturday & Sunday 10am - 3pm.



33 THE RED HOUSE

**21 London Street, Whitchurch,
Hampshire RG28 7LH
Tel: 01256 895558
e-mail: www.theredhousewhitchurch.com
website: info@theredhousewhitchurch.com**

If you are looking for rural charm, tradition and history set in a convenient location then **The Red House** will fulfil all of this and more. Ideally situated in Whitchurch just outside Basingstoke, in-between Andover and Newbury it is easily accessed from the M3, M4, A303 and A34 making it a great location to meet up with friends from all parts of the country.

Dating back to the 1500's The Red House has a charming bar area with an inglenook fireplace, original stone floors and simply loads of character, here you can relax with a drink and a snack, have a light bite or sample the more substantial pub favourites.

For a slightly more formal dining experience in a relaxed atmosphere, a full A La Carte menu is offered in the charming Restaurant where you can relax and enjoy a superb choice of dishes while being looked after by the friendly and welcoming team. All dishes are produced using locally sourced ingredients and are freshly cooked to your order.

Families are welcome and children will love the fantastic play area which is fully fenced so the kids can play while the adults relax either in the large garden or on the terrace. There is also a delightful thatched play house that generations of kids have enjoyed over the years.



34 NUMBER ATE THE CAFÉ

8 Latimer Street, Romsey, Hampshire SO51 8DG
Tel: 01794 523009

Situated in the heart of Romsey, just off the main street on Latimer Street, you'll come across the aptly named, **Number Ate The Café**, whose address is No.8.

Created by business partners Lou & Emily, some 5 years ago, the café has gone from strength to strength and all due to the commitment of these girls, their culinary skills and attentive hospitality.

The café opens for breakfast at 8:30am serving til 11am, the breakfast menu will satisfy you whatever your appetite.

Lunches are served from 11.30 - 2pm with wide selection of sandwiches, baguettes, salads and jacket potatoes, there is also the more substantial homecooked ham, egg & chips, homemade chilli, quiches and freshly made soup. If that's not enough there is also a daily specials board which is extremely popular. All dishes are prepared to order and cooked in-house. Number Ate also has a wonderful selection of waist enhancing homemade cakes and scones available all day long.

The café is closed on Sundays and Bank Holidays but open all others days between 8.30am and 3pm. On Saturdays it is open from 8.30 til noon.



35 THE SHOE INN

Salisbury Road, Plaitford, Hampshire SO51 6EE
Tel: 01794 322397

e-mail: info@theshoeinn.co.uk
website: www.theshoeinn.co.uk

On the edge of the New Forest, England's most recent National Park, motorists, motorcyclists, cyclists and walkers enjoy roads and tracks through over 90,000 acres of forest and heathland. It is here that visitors will be delighted to find **The Shoe Inn**.

Kerry and Kevin, along with their four daughters, have created a well run, family-friendly establishment, offering good food and well kept ales. Kerry is in charge of front of house offering a warm welcome to all who pass over the threshold, and Kevin is the executive chef responsible for the fine and varied menu. Visitors can expect to see dishes such as homemade chilli con carne, homemade steak and kidney pie, homemade chicken curry, old fashioned fish and chips and plenty more besides. A delicious roast is also added to the menu on Sunday.

The freehouse also offers quality bed and breakfast accommodation in 5 letting rooms. Each bedroom is equipped with all the much needed necessities, and a very reasonable tariff includes a hearty breakfast.

For details of live music and karaoke nights please visit the website.



36 THE FOX

Andover Road, Newfound, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG23 7HH

Tel: 01256 780493

e-mail: thefoxnewfound@yahoo.co.uk

The Fox is a traditional pub on the outskirts of Basingstoke, close to the Milestones Museum which offers a captivating view of everyday life in Hampshire between 1850 and 1945. While travelling back to the present be sure to combine your visit to the museum with a stop at the Fox, to enjoy a refreshing beverage and/or hearty meal in the comfortable more modern surroundings.

They serve a full selection of draught beers, wines and spirits for your enjoyment along with a range of real ale and soft drinks for all the non-drinkers and drivers.

The pub offers excellent home-cooked food (served Monday - Friday between 12-2 & 6-9) and awell renowned Sunday lunch - complete with all the trimmings (available on Sundays 12-3). Choose from the main menu or from the specials board for something a little different. Some favourites include the Giant Yorkshire Pudding filled with homemade savoury mince, braised faggots in a rich onion gravy and the homemade coq-au-vin (succulent chicken breast poached in red wine with bacon, mushrooms and shallots and served with fresh vegetables and new potatoes.

The Fox has a function room, which is available for private hire, and a skittle alley. The large garden (host to many a fine barbecue) has fantastic views over the open countryside, and in winter there is a roaring log fire to welcome you.

Live bands play every fortnight - and the atmosphere is buzzing.

With such a great great atmosphere and warm and friendly welcome, The Fox is a fantastic place for everyone one to be, young or old.



37 BASING HOUSE

Redbridge Lane, Basing, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG24 7HB

Tel: 01256 467294

website: www.hants.gov.uk/museum/basinghouse

Built on a massive scale inside the walls of a medieval castle, the house was once the largest private residence in the country. The ruins, the riverside walk, the dovecotes and the spectacular 16th century grange barn add up to an attraction of great appeal, and the beauty is enhanced by the re-created 17th century garden inside the Tudor walls. The house was sacked by Cromwell's men, with Cromwell himself present, after a long and arduous siege and the ruins include the historic Garrison gateway.



38 BARLEY MOW

19 Oakley Lane, Oakley, Hampshire RG23 7JZ

Tel: 01256 782591

Situated in the village of Oakley, found off the B3400 and a short drive west from Basingstoke, is the much loved Barley Mow.

Bruce and his son Carl, saw potential in this charming pub and decided to take on the exciting venture in February 2011. Since then, the pub has gone from strength to strength and continues to welcome visitors from near and far.

The bar offers 4 real ales including Courage Best, Greene King IPA, Timothy Taylor Landlord and a rotating guest ale allowing the regulars to try something new. The bar is open everyday from 12 until close.

The food here is exceptional, and the menu offers a varied selection of homemade dishes, created using locally sourced produce. On Sunday a delicious roast is available - well worth a try. A superb beer garden allows visitors to enjoy their delicious meal outside during the warmer months.

Food is available Wednesday through to Saturday 12 - 2pm & 5.30 - 9pm and Sunday 12 - 5pm. Children are very welcome and there is good disabled access. For details of entertainment on offer please visit the website.



39 ALDERSHOT MILITARY MUSEUM

Queens Avenue, Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 2LG

Tel: 01252 314598

website: www.hants.gov.uk/museum/aldershot

The Museum covers the histories of Aldershot military town and the adjoining civil towns of Aldershot and Farnborough. The complex contains a rich mixture of buildings, objects, displays, vehicles and archives, and each of the several galleries has a different theme and character.

The John Reed Gallery covers the history of the Army in Aldershot from its arrival in 1854, and includes a rare example of a Victorian barrack room displayed in its original setting. Rushmoor Local History Gallery, which with the John Reed Gallery occupies a pair of unique barrack bungalows built in 1894, deals with the history of the civil towns of Aldershot and Farnborough. The Cody Gallery is named after an American, Samuel Franklin Cody, who made Britain's first powered flight at Farnborough in 1908. The Gallery includes a reconstruction of part of his workshop and many original objects, among them his flying helmet.

The Montgomery Gallery, which stood originally in the grounds of Monty's home at Isington near Alton, houses a collection of larger exhibits, including field guns and other vehicles. The museum's collection of vehicles, some here, some kept outside, ranges from the mass-produced Willys jeep of 1943 to the formidable 60-ton Chieftain tank; most are in full working order.



40 GILBERT WHITE'S HOUSE AND THE OATES MUSEUM

Selborne, Hampshire GU34 3JH

Tel: 01420 511275 Fax: 01420 511040

website: www.gilbertwhiteshouse.org.uk

Gilbert White's House is a modest 18th century country house with a glorious garden, home of the renowned naturalist and author of *The Natural History of Selborne*, the Reverend Gilbert White (1720-1793). The rooms are furnished in period style, with many of his possessions on display, and the garden has been restored to its 18th century form. Also here is the Oates Museum commemorating the life and exploits of Captain Lawrence Oates, who died on Captain Scott's ill-fated Antarctic Expedition. Books, gifts and plants are on sale in the shop, and in the Tea Parlour delicious fare based on 18th century recipes is served.



41 TIFFIN TRADITIONAL TEAROOMS

50 West Street, Alresford, Hampshire SO24 9AU

Tel: 01962 734394

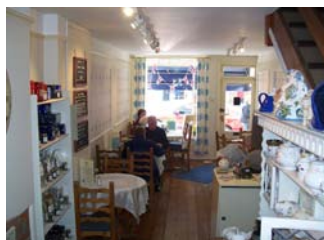
e-mail: tiffintearooms@hotmail.co.uk

Situated in the heart of Alresford, just a stone's throw from Alresford's famous private railway - The Watercress Line, is Tiffin Traditioanl Tearooms.

This outstanding business has been owned and personally run by Sharon and Chris since 2005, and the tearooms has become extremely popular with locals and visitors alike. The smell of homecooking is the first thing that visitors will notice, couple that with old fashioned hospitality and it's no wonder this place has such a reputation. The menu is varied and offers something for every palette, with all dishes being homemade. The homemade cakes are to die for, and offer a great treat to enjoy at any time of the day.

Through the couples hard work they have earned The Hampshire Hospitality Award in 2009 and 2010and more importantly, they have been awarded a grade of Excellence by The Tea Guild for 2010 and 2011.

Open everyday of the year except throughout Sept - March when it is closed on Sunday. All methods of payment accepted.



42 CLOISTERS *Café and Wine Bar*

The Square, Petersfield, Hampshire GU32 3HJ

Tel: 01730 233006

e-mail: robertsuzie@cloisterswinebar.co.uk

website: www.cloisterswinebar.co.uk

Cloisters Café and Wine Bar is a pleasant, rather intimate space with exposed brick and art on the walls and where young and cheerful service matches the ambience.

To accompany their coffees, Cloisters serves "beautifully moist, rich and very yummy cakes" all made fresh throughout the week. Varieties vary but can include: Supreme Carrot, Royal Victoria, Deadly Chocolate and Rich Fruit.

The 'Granola, Berry Compote and Yogurt' is a firm breakfast favourite, along with a freshly squeezed orange juice. More substantial is the home-made quiche, hand cut ham and cheddar quiche, served with home-made potato and chive salad and fresh coleslaw.

Dine inside or *al fresco* on the patio overlooking the town square. Open Monday-Saturday 7:30am to 6pm. Sundays 8am to 5pm.



TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRES

ALDERSHOT

Princes Gardens, High Street, Aldershot,
Hampshire GU11 1BJ
Tel: 01252 320968
website: www.visit-hampshire.co.uk

ANDOVER

6 Church Close, Andover, Hampshire SP10 1DP
Tel: 01264 324320
Fax: 01264 345650
website: www.visit-hampshire.co.uk

FAREHAM

Westbury Manor, West Street, Fareham,
Hampshire PO16 0JJ
Tel: 01329 221342
Fax: 01329 282959
website: www.visit-hampshire.co.uk

GOSPORT

Bus Station Complex, South Street, Gosport,
Hampshire PO12 1EP
Tel: 023 9252 2944
Fax: 023 9251 1687
website: www.visit-hampshire.co.uk

HAYLING ISLAND

Central Beachlands, Seafront, Hayling Island,
Hampshire PO11 0AG
Tel: 023 9246 7111
Fax: 023 9246 5626
website: www.visit-hampshire.co.uk

LYMINGTON

St Barbe Museum & Visitor Centre, New Street,
Lymington, Hampshire SO41 9BH
Tel: 01590 689000
Fax: 01590 672422
website: www.visit-hampshire.co.uk

LYNDHURST

High Street, Main Car Park, Lyndhurst,
Hampshire SO43 7NY
Tel: 023 8028 2269
website: www.visit-hampshire.co.uk

PETERSFIELD

The Square, Petersfield, Hampshire GU32 3HH
Tel: 01730 268829
website: www.visit-hampshire.co.uk

PORTSMOUTH

The Hard, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO1 3QJ
Tel: +44023 9282 6722
Fax: 023 9282 7519
website: www.visit-hampshire.co.uk

ROMSEY

13 Church Street, Romsey, Hampshire SO51 8BT
Tel: 01794 512987
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website: www.visit-hampshire.co.uk

SOUTHAMPTON

Civic Centre Road, Southampton, Hampshire SO14 7FJ
Tel: 023 8083 3333
Fax: 023 8083 3381
website: www.visit-hampshire.co.uk

WINCHESTER

The Guildhall, The Broadway, Winchester,
Hampshire SO23 9GH
Tel: 01962 840500
Fax: 01962 850348

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INDEX OF TOWNS, VILLAGES AND PLACES OF INTEREST

A

- ALDERSHOT** 46
Aldershot Military Museum 46
Army Physical Training Corps Museum 46
Heroes Shrine 46
- ALTON** 47
Allen Gallery 47
Curtis Museum 48
Grave of Fanny Adams 47
St Lawrence's Church 47
- AMPFIELD** 39
Sir Harold Hillier Gardens & Arboretum 39
- ANDOVER** 32
Guildhall 33
St Mary's Church 32
- APPLESHAW** 36
- ASHURST** 11
Longdown Activity Farm 11
New Forest Wildlife Park 11

B

- BASINGSTOKE** 41
Basing House 42
Chapel of the Holy Ghost 42
Festival Square 42
Milestones 42
Southview Cemetery 41
Viabes Craft Centre 42
War Memorial Park 41
Willis Museum 42
- BEAULIEU** 12
Bailey's Hard 12
Buckler's Hard 12
Maritime Museum 12
National Motor Museum 12
Palace House 12
- Beaulieu**
National Motor Museum 13, 60
- BISHOP'S WALTHAM** 23
Northbrook Springs Vineyard 24
Palace 23
- BOLDRE** 15
Spinners 15
- BOTLEY** 24

BREMORE

- Breamore Down* 21
Breamore House 20
Countryside Museum 20
- BROCKENHURST** 14
Church of St Nicholas 14
- BURGHCLERE** 33
Sandham Memorial Chapel 33
- BURITON** 52
- BURLEY** 21
Burley Wagon Rides 21
New Forest Cider 21
- BURSLEDON** 25
Bursledon Brickworks 25
Bursledon Windmill 25

C

- CALSHOT** 13
Calshot Castle 14
Lepe 14
- CHALTON** 53
Butser Ancient Farm 53
- CHAWTON** 48
Chawton House 48
- COLDEN COMMON** 39
Marwell Zoological Park 39
- CRAWLEY** 41
St Mary's Church 41

D

- DROXFORD** 24

E

- EAST MEON** 53
All Saints Church 53
Courthouse 53
- EAST WELLOW** 40
Carlo's 41
Church of St Margaret 40
Headlands Farm Fishery 40
- EASTLEIGH** 23
Beatrice Royal Contemporary Art and Craft Gallery 23
Eastleigh Museum 23
Lakeside Country Park 23
Point Dance and Arts Centre 23

ELING

- Tide Mill* 11
- EMSWORTH** 29
Emsworth Food Festival 29
- EVERSLEY** 44
- EXBURY** 13
Church of St Catherine 13
Exbury Gardens 13

F

- FACCOMBE** 33
Highclere Castle 33
- FAREHAM** 31
The Royal Armouries at Fort Nelson 32
Westbury Manor Museum 32
- FARNBOROUGH** 46
Farnborough Air Sciences Museum 47
Farnborough Air Show 46
St Michael's Abbey 47
- FAWLEY** 13
Ashlett Creek 13
Cadland House 13
- FORDINGBRIDGE** 19
Alderholt Mill 20
Branksome China Works 20
Fordingbridge Museum 20

G

- GOSPORT** 30
17th Century Village 31
Alverstoke 31
Diving Museum 31
Explosion! The Museum of Naval Firepower 30
Fort Brockhurst 30
HMS Alliance 30
Holy Trinity Church 31
Oakleaf Brewery 31
Royal Navy Submarine Museum 30
Wildgrounds 31

H

- HAMBLE** 25
Hamble Common 25
Manor Farm Country Park 25

INDEX OF TOWNS, VILLAGES AND PLACES OF INTEREST

HAMBLEDON 53

Broadhalfpenny Down 53

HARTLEY WINTNEY 43

Church of St Mary 44

Mildmay Oaks 44

HAVANT 28

Spring Arts and Heritage Centre 28

Staunton Country Park 28

HAYLING ISLAND 30

Hayling Billy Leisure Trail 30

HINTON AMPNER 50

Hinton Ampner Gardens 50

Itchen Way 50

HORNDEAN 29

George Gale & Co 29

Goss & Crested China Museum 29

HYTHE 11

I

ITCHEN ABBAS 38

Avington Park 38

K

KINGSCLERE 45

L

LIPHOOK 51

Hollycombe Steam Collection 52

LONGPARISH 34

Longparish Upper Mill 34

LYMINGTON 14

St Barbe Museum 15

LYNDHURST 8

Bolton's Bench 10

Church of St Michael 8

Grave of Alice Liddell 9

New Forest Centre and Museum 9

Queen's House 9

Swan Green 10

Verderer's Court 9

M

MIDDLE WALLOP 34

Danebury Ring 35

Danebury Vineyards 35

Museum of Army Flying 34

MILFORD-ON-SEA 16

Braxton Gardens 16

Church of All Saints 16

Hurst Castle 16

MINSTEAD 10

Church of All Saints 10

Furzey Gardens 10

Rufus Stone 10

MOTTISFONT 41

Mottisfont Abbey and Gardens 41

N

NETHER WALLOP 35

St Andrew's Church 35

NETLEY 24

Netley Abbey 24

Netley Hospital 24

Royal Victoria Country Park 24

NEW ALRESFORD 49

Old Alresford Pond 49

Watercress Line 49

NEW FOREST 8

NEW MILTON 16

Forest Arts 17

Water Tower 16

O

ODIHAM 44

All Saints Parish Church 45

Odiham Castle 44

Pest House 45

OVERTON 45

Watership Down 45

OWER 11

Paultons Park 11

Peppa Pig World 11

P

PAMBER HEATH 43

Priory Church 43

PARK GATE 26

PENTON MEWSEY 36

PETERSFIELD 50

Butser Hill 50

Church of St Peter 51

Flora Twort Gallery 51

Physic Garden 51

The Spain 51

PORTCHESTER 31

Portchester Castle 31

Portchester Church 31

PORTSMOUTH 26

Action Stations 27

Beneficial Boy's School 27

Charles Dickens Birthplace Museum 28

City Museum 28

HMS Victory 26

HMS Warrior 27

Mary Rose Museum 26

National Museum of the Royal Navy 27

Portsmouth Cathedral 27

Portsmouth Historic Dockyard 26

Spinnaker Tower 27

St George's Church 27

The Dockyard Apprentice 27

R

RINGWOOD 17

Liberty's Owl, Raptor & Reptile Centre 18

Monmouth House 17

Moors Valley Country Park 19

Moors Valley Railway 19

Ringwood Brewery Store 18

Ringwood Meeting House 17

Ringwood Town & Country

Experience Museum 18

ROCKBOURNE 19

Rockbourne Roman Villa 19

Whitsbury 19

Rockbourne

Roman Villa 18, 70

ROMSEY 39

Broadlands 40

King John's House 40

Romsey Abbey 39

Romsey Rood 40

Romsey Signal Box 40

ROWLAND'S CASTLE 29

Stansted Park 29

INDEX OF TOWNS, VILLAGES AND PLACES OF INTEREST

S

SELBORNE 48

- Church of St Mary* 48
- Gilbert White's House & Gardens* 48
- Oates Collection* 48
- Selborne Pottery* 49

Selborne

- The Oates Museum* 49, 82

SHERBORNE ST JOHN 42

- The Vyne* 42

SILCHESTER 43

- Calleva Atrebatum* 43
- Church of St Mary* 43

SOUTHAMPTON 21

- Bargate* 21
- Catchcold Tower* 21
- City Art Gallery* 22
- God's House Gate and Tower* 21
- Guildhall* 22
- Guildhall Square* 22
- Medieval Merchant's House* 22
- Sea City Museum* 22
- Solent Sky* 22
- Town Walls* 21
- Tudor House Museum & Garden* 22

SOUTHSEA 28

- Blue Reef Aquarium* 28
- D-Day Museum & Overlord Embroidery* 28
- Natural History Museum* 28
- Royal Marines Museum* 28
- Southsea Castle* 28

STEEP 51

STEVENTON 45

STOCKBRIDGE 34

- Houghton Lodge Gardens* 34

STRATFIELD SAYE 43

- Stratfield Saye House* 43
- Wellington Country Park* 43

SWAY 17

- Artsway* 17
- Peterson's Tower* 17

T

TANGLEY 36

- Icknield Way* 37

THRUXTON 36

- Motor Racing Circuit* 36

TICHBORNE 50

- Tichborne Claimant* 50
- Tichborne Dole* 50

TITCHFIELD 32

- Titchfield Abbey* 32
- Wriothlesley Monument* 32

TWYFORD 39

- Waterworks Museum* 39

U

UPPARK 52

- Uppark* 52

W

WARBLINGTON 29

- Church of St Thomas à Becket* 29

WEST END 22

- Itchen Valley Country Park* 22

WEST MEON 53

WEYHILL 35

- Hawk Conservancy Trust* 36

WHITCHURCH 34

- Bere Mill* 34
- Whitchurch Silk Mill* 34

WICKHAM 32

- Wickham Vineyard* 32

WINCHESTER 37

- Cathedral* 37
- Hospital of St Cross* 38
- INTECH* 38
- Jane Austen's House* 37
- Pilgrim Hall* 38
- The Great Hall* 38
- Westgate Museum* 38
- Winchester College* 37
- Wolsey Castle* 38